THE NEW
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PHOTO: AP

T20 WORLD CUP: INDIA WOMEN GET THE JOB DONE AGAINST PAK

ICC WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

After an upset loss against New Zealand, Harmanpreet & Co. enjoy relatively smooth sailing against neighbours on the back of a clinical bowling performance....

Arundhati, Shreyanka excel on bowling day

Pakistan opted to bat first in Dubai but Renuka Singh and Deepti Sharma were on the money in the powerplay. The pace-spin combo of Arundhati Reddy and Shreyanka Patil kept up the pressure, restricting Pakistan to 105/8. India got across the line but lie in fourth place thanks to a vastly inferior NRR.

Up against Sri Lanka and Australia next

It's likely that India need to win both their remaining games to guarantee their progression to semis. They face Sri Lanka, who beat India in Asia Cup final, on Wednesday and Australia on Sunday. The No. 3 spot remains a musical chair for India. Harmanpreet was one drop in the first match. On Sunday, it was Jemimah Rodrigues' turn | P11

-1.217

INDIA'S NET RUN-RATE AFTER THE PAKISTAN MATCH

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Beirut sees its 'worst day' as Israeli strikes intensify

Iran grounds flights amid threat of attack; 50 dead in Gaza, Lebanon

AGENCIES

IRAN on Sunday cancelled all flights till Monday amid concerns of Israel's immediate retaliatory strike on Tehran's October 1 missile attack on Tel Aviv.

While Iranian media quoting officials said the flights have been cancelled due to operational restrictions, Tehran had earlier implemented restrictions on flights when it fired nearly 200 missiles at Israel.

Meanwhile, Israel on Sunday intensified its bombardment of southern Beirut and northern Gaza, killing at least 50 people. The day also saw IDF unleash its heaviest bombardment on the Lebanon capital since it escalated its campaign against Iran-backed group Hezbollah last month.

With October 7 marking the first anniversary of Iran-backed Hamas's gruesome attack, West Asia watchers believe Israel is likely to step up its attacks to target the outfit's sponsor Iran.

Israeli officials have given ample indications in recent days that they are planning a "significant strike" on Iran, possibly targeting its oil installations or nuclear sites, apart from military infrastructure.

Flames and smoke rise from an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh, Beirut on Sunday | AP

Israel has been pounding Lebanon and Gaza since Saturday night. Powerful explosions rocked Beirut's southern suburbs after midnight on Saturday, killing at least 25 people, authorities in Lebanon said. A BBC correspondent in the city described the night as "Beirut's worst" since Israel started bombing the country two weeks ago.

In Gaza, an Israeli strike on a mosque early on Sunday killed at least 21 people, Palestinian officials said. Displaced people were sheltering at the mosque that was struck near the main hospital in the central town of Deir al-Balah. Another group of four persons were killed in a strike on a school sheltering displaced people near the town, AP reported.

"We are in a new phase of the war," the Israeli military said in leaflets it dropped over areas in northern Gaza. "These areas are considered dangerous combat zones," it said. P9

Rain kills 3, damages 150 houses in N K'taka

AMIT S UPADHYE
@ Hubballi/Ballari/Gadag

THREE people were killed and over 150 houses damaged after heavy rain lashed several parts of North Karnataka on Saturday night. As predicted by weather agencies, several districts in North Karnataka came under the grip of heavy rain owing to a cyclonic activity in the Bay of Bengal.

Two people were killed in Vijayanagara district on Saturday after a lightning struck them on Sunday. The victims – Narappa Banakar (55) and Prashant Banakar (45) -- were both from Dasanapura village of Hagaribommanahalli taluk in Vijayanagara district. In Davanagere district, 81-year-old Kulagatte Basavarajappa died after his house wall collapsed on him late on Saturday night. His son and daughter-in-law were also injured in the incident and are being treated at a hospital. They are out of danger.

Met Department sources said 130 mm of rain that lashed in a few hours in undivided Ballari district and surrounding areas caused intense floods. Heavy rain was also reported in Raichur, Koppal, Yadgir and Kalaburagi districts. P5

The Kendriya Vihar apartment in Yelahanka was flooded with knee-deep water following heavy rain on Saturday night and Sunday morning | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Rain floods apartment, fells trees in Bengaluru

Bengaluru: Heavy rain affected normal life in many parts of the city on Saturday night and Sunday morning. Houses and residential complexes were flooded, a compound wall collapsed damaging many two-wheelers, 15 trees were uprooted, and many roads became rivers leading to bumper-to-bumper traffic stretching for kilometres after the city received heavy rain on Saturday night |P2

NCB, Gujarat ATS bust Bhopal drug factory

ANURAAG SINGH & DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Bhopal/Ahmedabad

IN a joint operation, the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Delhi, have busted a drug factory in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, and seized mephedrone (MD) and raw materials worth ₹1,814 crore, authorities said on Sunday.

According to sources, the joint team raided a factory in the Bagroda Industrial Area on the outskirts of Bhopal on Saturday and seized 907.09 kg of the banned drug following specific inputs from a person who was recently detained in Surat.

A process was underway to manufacture a large amount of the contraband when the raid was carried out, sources added. Two persons identified as Amit Chaturvedi (57) from Bhopal and Sanyal Prakash Bane (40) of Nashik, Maharashtra were taken into custody.

Bane was earlier arrested in 2017 in a MD drug seizure case in Maharashtra and served five years in jail. After his release, he conspired with Chaturvedi to manufacture and sell MD to make quick money. The factory was subsequently taken on rent and nefarious operations started a few months ago.

The joint raid by the Gujarat ATS and NCB also led to the seizure of around 5,000 kg of raw materials, including chemicals used for manufacturing MD.

A preliminary probe suggested that the illegal unit had the capacity to manufacture 25 kg of MD per day, officials said.

The Madhya Pradesh police was not officially informed about the raid, said a senior police official.

BANGLADESH

Hindu group to hold Durga Puja indoors

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

WITH anti-minority sentiments running high in Bangladesh, a prominent Hindu organisation has decided to hold Durga Puja celebrations inside an auditorium.

"Considering the volatility of the present situation, Durga Puja in Ramakrishna Mission will be held inside the auditorium as hardliners have issued warnings against making sound," a senior activist for minorities in Dhaka told this newspaper.

The activist said the Hindus are living in a state of fear in Bangladesh after recent incidents of targeted attacks on them and other minority groups. Though the present government has assured protection for puja pandals, none of those accused of attacking the homes and properties of the Hindus have been arrested, the activist said.

"We feel the present regime doesn't want any minorities to exist in Bangladesh. Hindus are being falsely implicated in criminal cases. But can we expect justice to prevail?"

Professor Najmul Ahsan Kallimullah, a political commentator based in Dhaka, told this newspaper that, "The minority communities in Bangladesh are a troubled lot today. The present regime considers them as sympathisers of the Awami League."

In some areas, Puja committees have been reportedly asked to pay 5 lakh taka (INR 3.5 lakh) to set up puja pandals.

Ex-MLA's bro missing, search on in river

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

THE Mangaluru city police have launched a search operation in Phalguni river on the suspicion of a businessman jumping into the river from Kulur bridge.

BM Mumtaz Ali, 52, brother of former legislators BM Farooq and Mohiuddin Bava, left his house in Kadri around 3 am on Sunday.

Half-an-hour later, he posted a voice message in his family WhatsApp group, suggesting that he is taking the extreme step and blamed a person for it.

His daughter, who saw the message around 4.40 am, went in search of him and found Ali's car in damaged condition at Kulur bridge and alerted the police.

Mangaluru Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal, who rushed to the spot along with senior police officials, said that based on a missing person's complaint, they have launched the search operation involving personnel from State Disaster Response Force, Fire and Emergency Services and the Coast Guard, suspecting that Ali may have jumped into the river.

Ali was not traced till evening. He owned an industry in Baikampady and was active in the Dakshina Kannada Muslim Central Committee.

EXPRESS READ

State will face snap polls before '28: HDK

Bengaluru: Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday said Karnataka may face snap polls before 2028. "We need not wait until 2028 for the elections as we may face them before that," he said at an event here | P4

Hindu trusts should run temples: Pejawar seer

Mangaluru: Pejawar Math seer and trustee of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, Sri Vishwaprasanna Tirtha Swamiji, on Sunday said trusts should be set up in Hindu temples to prevent any irregularities | P5

5 people die as IAF air show ends in chaos

Chennai: Five people died due to suspected dehydration while returning from an air show by the Indian Air Force (IAF) at the Marina beach in Chennai on Sunday. Over 300 people fainted during the event | P5

NEXT HARYANA CM

Lobbying starts in Congress even before election results

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

WITH less than 24 hours left for the Haryana assembly election results to be announced, the Congress party hopes to celebrate an early Diwali, going by the exit polls.

However, it has an uphill task at hand —to nail down a chief minister's name from among multiple contenders and to contain the party's problem of infighting.

The exit polls on Saturday forecast a smooth win for the Congress with most pollsters predicting 55 of Haryana's 90 seats - comfortably ahead of the halfway mark of 46.

Even as the exit polls were out, hectic parleys began in the Congress camp to decide the next Chief Minister. Among the CM hopefuls are Rajya Sabha MP and ex-Union minister Kumari Selja, former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, his son and Lok Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda, Rajya Sabha MP and AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, and state Congress chief Udai Bhan, a Hooda loyalist.

Bhupinder Singh Hooda left for Delhi on Sunday evening where he will hold a meeting with the party leadership. On Monday, the veteran leader is likely to meet the senior leadership before he returns to his Rohtak residence.

His arch-rival Selja, a prominent Dalit face of the party, has not shied away from projecting herself as the CM candidate.

Asked who would be the CM if the Congress comes to power, Hooda on Saturday reiterated that there is a laid down procedure in the party, according to which "the opinion of the MLAs will be sought and the high command will decide".

'MLAs, high command will decide'

On whether Selja would become the next CM, Bhupinder Singh Hooda said, "This is democracy. Everybody should aspire. You can also aspire. But the MLAs will decide, the high command will decide"

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 07.10.2024 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Dakshinayana • Ritu: Sharad • Masa: Ashwayuja • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Panchami (Whole Day) • Nakshatra: Anuradha 11.20 pm • Moon in Dhanur Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 20°C | MAX 29°C
FORECAST
Overcast

Sunrise 06.09 am
Sunset 06.05 pm
Moonrise 09.36 am
Moonset 09.08 pm

02 BENGALURU MONDAY 07.10.2024 newindianexpress.com

Residents of Kendriya Vihar apartment complex in Yelahanka wade through knee-deep water on Sunday. Below: The collapsed compound wall and part of a house in Binnypet | NAGARAJA GADEKAL, EXPRESS

Water enters houses, roads turn rivers after another rainy night

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

HEAVY rain affected normal life in many parts of Bengaluru on Saturday night and Sunday morning. Houses and residential complexes were flooded, a compound wall collapsed damaging many two-wheelers, 15 trees were uprooted, 44 branches fell, and many roads became rivers leading to bumper-to-bumper traffic stretching for kilometres after the city received heavy rain on Saturday night.

Kendriya Vihar apartment in Yelahanka that houses thousands of residents was flooded with knee-deep water. Preethi, a resident of the apartment and was seen carrying instant food packets, said, "There is no electricity and water supply due to flooding. Many cars and vehicles are submerged. We are helping each other till the situation improves."

Volunteers loaded a tractor with milk packets, water bottles and bread packets and distributed them to the residents. The BBMP said the apartment was flooded as the 50-foot compound wall between the apartment and Yelahanka Lake collapsed. BBMP officials and gang men and personnel from the National Disaster Relief Force and fire department were seen pumping out water from the apartment complex. BBMP said the apartment is located 25 feet below the lake level and that is the reason it gets flooded frequently. Residents demanded a permanent boundary wall around the apartment.

In Madhuvana near Vijayanagar, over 10 houses were flooded as the sewage line overflowed. The recently inaugurated Palike Bazaar too was filled with water. In Binnypet, a seven-foot high compound wall of Park View Apartment fell on many two-wheelers, while houses nearby were flooded with rain water mixed with sewage. The wall also brought down an electric pole, which fell on a nearby house and the work was on to clear the damage.

Netizens took to social media sites to slam the BBMP for shoddy infrastructure. They wondered how Brand Bengaluru can be built when the city cannot withstand less than one hour of rain. The Electronic City toll plaza, Nayandahalli, Kalyan Nagar, Belandur and Hebbal were some of the areas that were flooded, leading to traffic gridlock.

BBMP officials said the majority of problems were reported from Bengaluru South, West and Yelahanka zones, while other five zones faced not many issues.

KIA nosedives on the finance front in 2024

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE Bengaluru international airport, which was the country's most profitable earlier, has recorded a loss of Rs 55.7 crore in the financial year ending 2024, reveals a professional credit rating agency. Presenting a detailed report recently on all aspects related to the Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL), which operates the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), the ICRA Ltd (formerly Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Ltd) has given it a 'Stable' rating.

BIAL is a special purpose vehicle formed to set up the KIA airport, the country's third largest airport and the biggest in South India. It is held by FIH Mauritius Investments and Anchorage Infrastructure Investment Holding Ltd (Fairfax Companies, 64%), Siemens Project Ventures GmbH, Germany (10%), Airports Authority of India (13%) and Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (13%).

KIA had operationalised its second terminal, a nearly Rs 5,000-crore project, in early 2023. It began domestic operations at T2 in January and international operations in September last year.

Giving specific numbers, the report states that the Profit After Tax for BIAL worked out to a negative Rs 55.7 crore for 2023-2024 during which it operated on an income of Rs 2,4749.3 crore. For the previous year, it had recorded a profit of Rs 487.3 crore with an operating income of Rs 1,844.7 crore, it added.

As per the financial details for 139 airports furnished as a written reply in the Parliament in December last year for the fiscal April 2022 to March 2023, 93 airports were reported as loss making. The list revealed that Bengaluru was the most profitable airport in the country.

Regarding the AAA rating, the report said, "The rating considers the healthy scale of operations, supported by growth in passenger traffic, commence of operations at T2 and improvement in both aeronautical and non-aeronautical revenues," it said. The instrument of Proposed Non-Convertible Debentures for an amount of Rs 5,000 crore has been rated, it specified.

The passenger traffic at BIAL is projected to increase by 10% to 11% to around 41-42 million in fiscal 2025, it stated. It was 31.9 million passengers in FY 2023. BIAL concession agreement to operate the airport has been extended up to May 24, 2068, by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, it pointed out. The credit rating assigned is crucial because it spells out the creditworthiness of a concern which has a huge bearing on the credit that can be accessed and decides the interest rate to be paid.

BIAL refrained from any comment on the report.

Int'l flights diverted from Chennai

Bengaluru: The closure of airspace at Chennai Airport for two hours on Sunday due to the IAF Air Show 2024 resulted in diversion of two international flights to Bengaluru. The air space in Chennai was shut from 11 am to 1 pm. A Chennai airport official told TNIE, "An Air India flight (AI 347) from Singapore to Chennai and a Malaysian Airlines flight (MH182) from Kuala Lumpur to Chennai were diverted to Kempegowda International Airport on Sunday morning."

AUTO DRIVERS: HIKE FARES, CUT DOWN FREQUENT FIGHTS

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

INCIDENTS of auto drivers attacking passengers and getting into fights for cancelling rides, engaging in foul verbal arguments and abuse, have become a common sight in Bengaluru. Auto drivers and unions say the problem could be controlled to some extent if auto fares are revised every year and new fares are strictly followed by auto drivers.

Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union (ARDU) General Secretary Rudra Murthy argued that the operational costs of autos have skyrocketed as fuel, spare parts and cost of living have gone up steadily, while fares have remained the same for the past three years.

Accepting that many auto drivers do not follow the meter now, Murthy opined, "If fares are revised regularly, linking them with the Wholesale Price Index, people can get autos immediately, without ride-hailing apps. These apps were introduced only a few years ago and before this, people used to get autos as the majority charged as per meter. Now, the condition is that people are not ready to opt for autos on the road as they feel the drivers don't follow the meter, and depend on ride-hailing apps. Without people to take their autos, drivers are dependent on apps, and when rides are cancelled, they get agitated."

"In the last decade, auto fares have been hiked only twice -- once in 2013 and the last in 2021. Since then, we have submitted many requisitions to the government to hike fares but they are not being addressed," Murthy said.

Some users say auto drivers don't adhere to the meter even if the government hikes fares, and urged that those who flout the rule should be slapped with hefty fines. If repeated, their auto permit and driving licences be cancelled so that everyone follows the meter.

Auto unions like ARDU and Adarsh Auto Union have urged the government to hike the minimum auto fare to Rs 40, and Rs 20 for every subsequent kilometre, and their demand is pending before the government.

"I have two daughters in college. The money I earn driving the auto is not enough to run the family. As my wife is also working, we somehow run the family. Most of my earning go into fuel, maintaining the auto and food expenses. Without any savings, how can I get my daughters educated and married?" asked Prashanth, a resident of Kengeri, arguing for a fare hike.

EXPRESS READ

Planetarium invites submissions for upcoming science expo

The Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium, under the Bangalore Association for Science Education (BASE), will host a three-day science exhibition — Science in Action — from November 29. High school students have been invited to submit working models and experiments that demonstrate scientific or mathematical principles. Students can download the registration forms from the official website and submit them along with a brief write-up by November 5. ENS

Speech and hearing institute celebrates Founder's Day

Dr S R Chandrasekhar Institute of Speech and Hearing held the Founder's Day, Dr SRC Memorial Award ceremony, Donors' Meet and Graduation day on Thursday. Swami Sachidananda Saraswati, Peetadhipati of Sri Vasavi Peetam, Acharya Araha, Vidya Gurukulum, USA, was the chief guest while Dr Ramakrishna Reddy, Joint Director, Bengaluru Region, Department of Collegiate Education, was the guest of honour. The Dr SRC Memorial Award was conferred on Dr BS Premalatha, Professor, Dept of Speech Language studies, and Ratna B Shetty, Co-ordinator, Mother Training Centre. ENS

Three-day workshop for students

Educafe Student Solutions Pvt Ltd will conduct workshops for students of Class 6-8 from October 14-16. The sessions, to be held at the venue above MIDAS School of Entrepreneurship in Seshadripuram Main Road, will be on topics including communication and public speaking, problem solving, and self awareness. For more information, visit www.educafe.com. ENS

Call for strict enforcement of ban on inhuman glue traps

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

DESPITE a ban, glue traps — commonly used to catch rodents — are still being sold online and in certain shops. These traps, designed to immobilise animals on an adhesive surface, lead to prolonged suffering as the animals die slowly from starvation, dehydration or self-inflicted injuries.

Condemning their use, members associated with the Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (WRRC) have urged the government to take immediate action by writing to manufacturers, demanding an end to the production and sale of these harmful devices.

The WRRC has reported numerous cases of wild animals becoming victims of glue traps, often found stuck for days without food or water, struggling for survival.

Between 2021 and 2024, WRRC treated over 10 cases involving various species, including three Indian Spectacled Cobras, a Russell's Viper, a Trinket Snake, a Three-lined Palm Squirrel, a Black-shouldered Kite, a Shikra and a Large-billed Crow, all of which were found trapped and in distress.

Suparna Ganguly, a member of WRRC, stressed that witnessing these helpless animals trapped for days only to be rescued is heartbreaking, raising the question of how many others suffer or perish unnoticed. She emphasised the importance of public awareness, sensitisation and strict enforcement of the ban on glue traps.

"We must ensure these traps are neither manufactured nor available for sale. While our team of veterinarians provides exceptional care, removing animals from glue traps is an incredibly challenging process," Suparna said, adding that it can take hours of meticulous work to free them without causing further harm to their sensitive skin.

To sensitise the public, the organisation organised a walkathon around Bannerghatta on October 5, aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of glue traps, during which the members highlighted the need for public education on this inhumane practice that threatens urban wildlife.

The members, as part of the drive, engaged with local vendors and shop owners and raised awareness among them about the ban on glue traps and the devastating impact these devices have on animals such as snakes, birds, and squirrels.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

07TH October : There is a lot of very positive talk about saving the planet at the moment. A lot of experts think that you can't be into astrology and not care about the environment, because what are the stars and planets but part of our greater, cosmic, environment?

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You may not be sure why you should feel so confident about the future. Just appreciate the sense of growing optimism that is due to lift your spirits over the coming few days, under the Sun's intriguing relationship with Jupiter, planet of wisdom and wide open spaces.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
In your own sweet, quiet way you have built up a considerable fund of wisdom and experience over the years. Now you may come to the aid of various people whose collective ventures are floundering for want of a voice like yours. Speak up - it's time you were heard.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
The week's stars begin on a high note, but as the days pass, argumentative influences will creep in. You must therefore be aware that what seems like a golden opportunity now could turn into quite the opposite by next weekend. Also, harsh words today could rebound on you later.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You've been wondering what happened to all your alleged good fortune. Well, today's intriguing planetary patterns provide a pretty good guarantee that events are moving your way. All you have to do is get on the train while it's moving - and hang on tight.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
In many respects you fare better than most at the moment because you have the wit to see a personal situation for what it really is. I doubt if anyone will be able to pull the wool over your eyes. You may even realise that cast-iron practical arrangements might not work out after all.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You are now going through a rather peculiar phase, perhaps because you're not really sure what you want. Try to be a bit more at ease and relaxed with the world in general, without swinging to the other extreme and becoming disorganised and chaotic.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
It's time to say another word to all Librans who are in the throes of domestic change - that there is only another fortnight of confusion. In fact, all of you will find it easier to straighten out family complications next month, which has to be good news.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You may imagine that everything at home is just fine and hunky-dory. However, it's just at times like these that you must take extra precautions. Do your very best to see that family members are happy and contented - even if they're not! I have a feeling you'll soon have some making up to do!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
You will soon share with your fellow fire signs, Leo and Aries, a superb, if challenging, planetary line-up. However, your optimism may be ter-pered by the knowledge that in some senses even you may now be out of your depth. It's time to rely on your past experience.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Partners, loved ones and close colleagues are about to start moving back to an optimistic high after a few weeks of uncertainty. You may both help them develop their good feelings, and share in their success. You should also help them face up to the truth.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You're an Aquarian, so nobody can really put you on the spot or undermine your confidence unless you allow them to. However, judicious concessions made now will prevent them even making the attempt. Your judgement and timing are crucial, and I suspect that you'll be walking a tightrope - temporarily.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
As long as you keep your eye on the ball, you'll have a good start to the week, so no fears on that score. As the days pass, just keep an eye on those secret worries and frustrated hopes that tend to erupt at moments of irritation or pressure. Talk to friends and those who know best, if you need reassurance.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

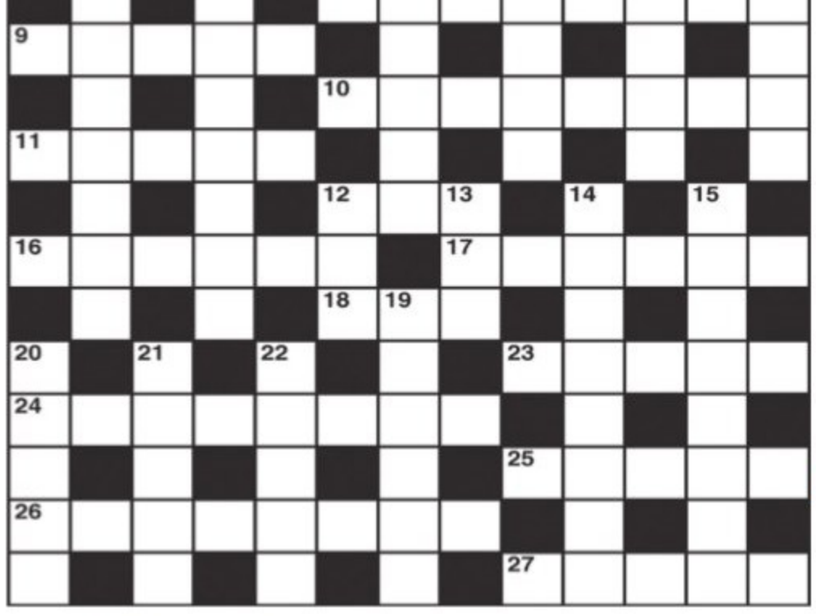
7		8	6					
5				1			4	2
		6						
	8			9			1	
2		9		6		4		5
	5			7			2	
						5		
8	6			5				1
					9	8		7

7	5	2	1	9	6	4	8	3
8	4	3	5	2	7	1	9	6
1	6	9	3	8	4	5	2	7
2	7	5	4	3	8	6	1	9
6	8	1	2	5	9	3	7	4
3	9	4	7	6	1	8	5	2
9	3	7	8	4	5	2	6	1
5	2	6	9	1	3	7	4	8
4	1	8	6	7	2	9	3	5

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Free of charge perhaps (5)
8 Column of soldiers in Mount Tumbledown? (8)
9 It's an assembly of dissenters (5)
10 Training cut without hesitation (8)
11 Admit it's general (5)
12 A tailless dog causes a commotion (3)
16 Small ring fixed up for weaving contest (6)
17 Lawyers open with argument that carries weight (6)
18 Reading a Greek letter one gives a soft audible sigh (3)
23 A smart kind of accent (5)
24 A morning or afternoon jam session? (4,4)
25 Sail out of port (5)
26 A tale of love in a decent novel (8)
27 Confidence in the theatre (5)

DOWN
2 They've got their lines crossed (8)
3 Agitated girl with unusually neat figure (8)
4 Persuaded firm to cut down (6)
5 It may be taken in hand by Gurkhas (5)
6 Girl was poorly brought up (5)
7 She's in before the lodger (5)
12 Current term for a politician (3)
13 Robin has a sash for his middle (3)
14 Continues to make money (8)
15 Some of the stocks sought by mountaineers (8)
19 Search inside the shop for switches (6)
20 A good chance for a rest (5)
21 Found in a monastery garden? (5)
22 A ghost from Hades (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Florentine, 6 Alas, 10 Recto, 11 Gun turret, 12 Parental, 13 Shoal, 15 Exactly, 17 Slashed, 19 Panacea, 21 Outflow, 22 Night, 24 Creditor, 27 Tolerates, 28 Event, 29 Muse, 30 Occasional.

Down: 1 Firm, 2 Once again, 3 Elope, 4 Tightly, 5 Nonplus, 7 Largo, 8 Settle down, 9 Outsmart, 14 Peeping Tom, 16 Taciturn, 18 Halloween, 20 Ascetic, 21 Oversea, 23 Galas, 25 Iceni, 26 Et al.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

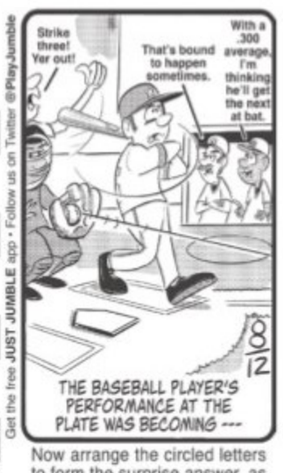
BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

ETRCS

NMRIO

SIVNIO

SIFHIN


Strike three! Yer out!
That's bound to happen sometimes.
With a .300 average, I'm thinking he'll get the next at bat.
THE BASEBALL PLAYER'S PERFORMANCE AT THE PLATE WAS BECOMING ---
8/12
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FENCE RUMOR FIXATE WHIMSY
Answer: The team won the baseball game after their relief pitcher — CAME "THREW"

An absconding suspect, who was evading the Belagavi police for the last two years, has been finally arrested. He is accused of being involved in several criminal cases in Belagavi. The accused is identified as Nayeem Abbas Khoja, hailing from Tippu Sultan Nagar, Gokak. Nayeem was wanted by police in various cases, including one fight at APMC police station

AI traffic app leaves ambulance drivers in snarls, cops confused

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

WHILE Bengaluru traffic police had planned to facilitate smooth passage for ambulances, which are often seen stuck in traffic and struggling to ferry patients, by introducing ASTraM (Actionable Intelligence for Sustainable Traffic Management), the challenges the traffic police face in implementing it have not yielded expected results.

Bengaluru's traffic congestion poses a significant challenge for ambulance drivers, especially during emergencies. To address this, traffic police had introduced the ASTraM application nine months ago, aiming to ease the movement of ambulances across the city. However, only 250 ambulance drivers have registered for the application so far.

The ASTraM app is designed to tackle congestion issues in the city. One of its features is the ability to track ambulance movements in real-time. The app enables the control room to monitor registered ambulances from their origin to destination. It alerts the control room if an ambulance is stuck in traffic for more than 120 seconds and provides drivers with updates on the shortest routes and traffic conditions. The app also features an SOS button for urgent interventions.

Explaining the challenges faced by the traffic police, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) MN Anucheth told TNIE that prioritising ambulances near hospitals is a difficult task. "For instance, about 25 ambulances pass every two hours at KC General hospital in Malleswaram. In such cases, it is difficult to create easy passage for all ambulances as there is no information on the condition of patients they will be carrying. We can't prioritise and act. As there is frequent movement of ambulances around hospitals, it is difficult to facilitate easy movement for them all the time. It has to be worked out in such a way that it doesn't affect the general traffic."

Further, he said that ambulances approaching a particular junction from various directions also pose a challenge, as making way for one vehicle may lead to traffic gridlock, affecting the movement of another.

Another senior officer said city traffic police are using multiple technologies, but unless common technology is adopted, it will be difficult to ease the movement of ambulances. If every ambulance is linked to the same application, it would be better. He added that there are over 2,500 ambulances in the city.

MAIN SUSPECT WHO HELPED ILLEGAL PAK FAMILIES HELD

Accused hailing from Mumbai aided Pakistan citizens in obtaining fake Aadhaar cards, PAN cards, passports

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN a major breakthrough in the case of the illegal stay of Pakistani citizens in Bengaluru, the Jigani police arrested the main suspect on Saturday. The accused allegedly helped two Pakistani families, which were arrested recently, by providing them with fake identity documents and helping them obtain Aadhaar cards and passports.

The accused has been identified as Parvez (57), who hails from Mumbai was running a business.

The police stated, the arrest was made following a tip-off and after the two families revealed Parvez's details. He was nabbed near the Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station in Majestic. Parvez, an Indian, is accused of assisting Pakistani citizens in obtaining fake Aadhaar cards, Indian passports, PAN cards, and driving licenses. He is reportedly the head of the Mehdi Foundation in India. The individuals arrested earlier, who were propagating the teachings of religious leader Younus Al-Gohar, were in contact with Parvez and acted on his instructions, the police said, adding that the arrested individuals claim that there are many Pakistani citizens scattered across India in different states.

The Jigani police have taken Parvez into custody and are questioning him. Meanwhile, the two Pakistani families, who were living under Hindu names and were arrested in two separate incidents earlier this week, remain in police custody. Further investigation are on.

JUMBO WELCOME

A temple elephant welcomes US Ambassador to India Eric M Garcetti and other delegates in Hampi on Sunday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

Two killed in separate accidents in Kushalnagar

MADIKERI: A student from Tamil Nadu who came to Kodagu on a college trip was killed in a road accident on Saturday. After touring several places, the bus was parked by the roadside. Agustin Das (22) visited a tea shop on the opposite side of the road and while crossing the road, a speeding Omni vehicle ran over him. In another incident, a youngster was killed on the spot after his bike collided with a pick-up vehicle. Abhi (27), son of Javaraiah, who is a resident of Kanive village, is the victim.

Initiative launched to cure cervical cancer

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TO significantly reduce the incidence of cervical cancer, the State Health Department, in partnership with the Karnataka chapter of ECHO India, Obstetricians and Gynaecologists organisation, and several NGOs, launched 'Accelerating Cervical Cancer Elimination - CCE: The Karnataka Movement'.

This initiative aims to enhance vaccination, screening, and preventive care, to position Karnataka as a model state in the fight against this disease.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao inaugurated the initiative on October 3. The minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to expanding access to cervical cancer prevention and treatment. "The government is implementing all possible efforts to make cervical cancer prevention and treatment accessible to every woman, ensuring early detection and timely intervention to save lives," he added.

Dr Hema Divakar, Division Director for Well Woman Healthcare, International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), highlighted that while national efforts are underway, Karnataka must take the lead in driving awareness, implementing vaccination and screening strategies in alignment with the WHO's strategy.

Dr H Sudarshan, Trustee of ECHO India, urged the government to prioritise the immunisation of young girls, stating, "While we have made great strides in screening and building capacity for cervical cancer prevention, we must now focus on ensuring that young girls are vaccinated."

Priest steals gold from temple,held

ENS @Udupi

GANGOLLI police have arrested 43-year-old priest Narasimha Bhat as he is accused of stealing gold ornaments adorned by the deity at Kharvikeri Shri Mahankali temple, Gangolli. Police have recovered the gold weighing 256 grams worth of Rs 20.48 lakh from the priest. He had taken the original gold ornaments and replaced it with fake ones. Between May 16 and September 21, he misappropriated the gold ornaments that were all offered by devotees and the temple management. The arrested priest has been produced before court.

The arrested, Narasimha Bhat is from Sirsi. The incident came to light on September 21. During the interrogation, the accused admitted to the crime.

Tension in Hubbali as Dattatreya Idol desecrated

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hubballi

TENSION prevailed in Hubballi after an idol of Dattatreya was found desecrated at a temple which is located on an apartment premises in Deshpande Nagar where a Garba event was held as part of the ongoing Navaratri festival, on Saturday night.

The incident came to light on Sunday morning when some residents went to the 20-year-old temple to pray. The residents gathered in large numbers and demanded action against the miscreants. Four hands of the statue were broken with a iron rod like weapon.

Senior police officers visited the spot and assured speedy action. A team of forensic experts and police canine squad were pressed into service.

Hubballi Dharwad Police Commissioner N Shashi Kumar visited the temple along with senior officers. He assured that the miscreants will be caught soon.

Hubballi Dharwad Central MLA Mahesh Tenginakai also met the residents. The police are examining CCTV footage. According to sources, a masked man can be seen in the footage but there is no clarity as the CCTVs are not covering the temple area.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mr. Kowdoor Harshit Kumar Hegde,** S/o. Late Vasanth Kumar Shetty, the owner of property bearing Site No. 6, New Municipal No. 13, PID No. 73-103-13, situated at Vinayakanagar, A, Block, 5th Cross, Konena Agrahara, Bangalore has lost the original Sale Deed dated 17.06.1983 executed by Mrs. Akkaiamma in favour of Vasanth Kumar Shetty registered in the office of Sub Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk as Document No. 1980/1983-84 while in transit and in spite of his best efforts, he could not found the same.

Therefore, I hereby call upon that whoever is in possession of the said original Sale Deed dated 17.06.1983 hereby requested to deliver to my office within 7 working days, failing which my client shall be constrained to proceed with the certified copy of the said Sale Deed dated 17.06.1983 for his further transaction.

H. NAGESH, Advocate,
No.46, 2nd Main, Opposite to Anand Co-Operative Bank, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore - 20. Mobile No.: 9902201565
Bangalore, Date: 07-10-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client is in the process of conducting due diligence on the title of the immovable property more fully described in the schedule hereunder belonging to Sri R. Krishnaiah S/o Late Rangaiah.

If anybody has charge, lien, interest or title or claim on the Schedule Property, they should come forth with the copies of documents in support of such claim and produce the same to the undersigned counsel, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. In the event no such legally tenable claim is received, my client shall proceed with the sale deed of the Schedule Property as if no such claim exists or that they have been waived or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being Agricultural land bearing Sy No.11/3 measuring 1 acre 32 guntas, situated at Chokkanahalli village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, and bounded on :- East by : Land belonging to Kempanna; West by : Land belonging to Patalappa ; North by : Land belonging to Patalappa and Munegowda; South by : Land belonging to Nanjundappa.

Sd/- **Udaneshwara. M. G.**
Advocate, #250, 1st Floor, MM Plaza, Narasipura Main Road, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560 097.
Ph : 9480524268

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(Under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction sale notice for sale of Immovable property under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged /charged to the **seccured creditor,** the possession of which has been taken by the **Canara Bank, ARM Branch II Bangalore-1** will be sold **on "As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is"** basis for recovery of outstanding dues from below mentioned Borrowers. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned below.

Name of Borrowers and Guarantors	Total Liabilities as per Sale Notice	Description of Immovable Assets	Auction Date & Time	Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit [EMD] Date & Time	1) Incremental Value at Bid 2) A/c No. & IFSC
1) M/s Lakshmi Biotech D-9/139 SFS 407, 4th Phase, New Town, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064 **2) Also at: M/s Lakshmi Biotech**, 175/5, 10th Cross, Thyagarajanagar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004 **3) Mr. T Kullayi Reddy** S/o: T Ramachandra Reddy, D-10, SCC Saphire Apartment, Ananthapura Gate, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560064 **4) Mrs. Sunitha lakhsmi** W/o T Kullayi Reddy, D 10,SCC Sapphire Apartment, Ananthapura Gate, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru 560064 **5) Also at : Mrs. Sunithalakshmi** W/o T Kullayi Reddy, Flat No. 415 & 416, S - LIG, First Floor, 35th block, 5th Floor, Housing board, Yelahanka New town, Bengaluru 560064	**Rs.11,63,67,649.25/-** (Eleven crores sixty three lakhs sixty seven thousand six hundred forty nine twenty five paisa only) as on date, together with future interest, expenses and costs etc till realisation due to ARM Branch II, Bangalore of Canara Bank from M/s Lakshmi Biotech.	**Details and full description of the property:** 9 No.s of residential Shirke LIG Flats (2 flats owned by T Sunitha Lakshmi & 7 flats owned by T K reddy) at 5th phase, Karnataka Housing Board, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore-560064 measuring 1014.75 sqmts.	24.10.2024 11.30 AM To 12.30 PM	**Reserve Price:** As Mentioned Below **EMD :** As Mentioned Below **on or before 22.10.2024 at 4.00 PM**	1) Multiples of Rs. 25,000/- 2) A/c No. 209272434 IFSC : CNRB0006298 **Encumbrance (s):** Not known to Bank

Block No.	Flat No	Floor	SBA	Extent	Reliazable Value	EMD Amount
38	447	Ground	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs. 6,05,475/-	Rs. 60,548/-
38	448	Ground	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs. 6,05,475/-	Rs. 60,548/-
20	236	1st	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs. 6,05,475/-	Rs. 60,548/-
35	415	1st	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs. 6,05,475/-	Rs. 60,548/-
35	416	1st	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs. 6,05,475/-	Rs. 60,548/-
38	452	1st	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs. 6,05,475/-	Rs. 60,548/-
39	463	1st	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs. 6,05,475/-	Rs. 60,548/-
39	464	1st	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs. 6,05,475/-	Rs. 60,548/-
22	262	2nd	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs. 6,05,475/-	Rs. 60,548/-

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

a. Auction / bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website https://ebkray.in/ Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
b. The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer .
c. The property will be sold for the price which is more than the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process.
d. **EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (E-bkray) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan.**
e. After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details **on or before 22.10.2024-4.00 PM,** to Canara Bank, ARM Branch II Bangalore by hand OR Email.
   i. Demand Draft/Pay order towards EMD amount. If paid through RTGS/NEFT Acknowledgement receipt thereof with UTR No.
   ii. Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount.
   iii. Bid Form.
   The intending bidders should register their names at portal https://ebkray.in/ and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E-auction from the service provider, M/s.PSB Alliance (E bkray) - e- mail: support.ebkray@psballiance.com
   EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them. The EMD shall not carry any interest.
f. Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in **multiplies of Rs.25,000/-.**The bidder who submits the highest bid (not below the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor.
g. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorized Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again. This amount shall be deposited by way of Demand draft in favour of Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, ARM II Branch OR shall be deposited through RTGS / NEFT / Fund Transfer to credit of account of Canara Bank, ARM II Branch, A/c. No. 209272434, IFSC Code: CNRB0006298.
h. For sale proceeds of **Rs.50.00 Lakhs** (Rupees Fifty lacs) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at a rate 1% or as applicable on the sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the bank.
i. All charges for Conveyance, Stamp Duty/GST/Registration Charges etc. As applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only.
j. Authorised Officer reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the E-auction without assigning any reason thereof.
k. In case there are bidders who do not have access to the internet but interested in participating the E-auction, they can approach Canara Bank Circle office, Bengaluru or Canara Bank ARM II Branch, Bengaluru, who as a facilitating centre shall make necessary arrangements.
l. Bidder has to make due diligence and physical verification of property with regard to title, extent, area dues, etc. No claim subsequent to submission of bid shall be entertained by the bank.
m. For further details contact **Ranjan Kumar, Chief Manager, Canara Bank, ARM Branch-2- (080-25310181)** e-mail id - **cb6298@canarabank.com** OR the service provider M/s.PSB Alliance(E bkray) - e- mail: **support.ebkray@psballiance.com h**

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION/CAUTION

Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back –up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

Place : Bangalore | Date : 03.10.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank**

RBL BANK LTD
Registered Office: 1st Lane, Shahpuri, Kolhapur-416001.
Branch Office: RBL Bank Ltd, Prestige Towers, 3rd Floor, 99 And 100, Residency Road, Bangalore, Karnataka-560025, Tel: (O) 8984072538.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

The Authorised officer of RBL Bank Ltd. under Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon Borrower/ Guarantor/Mortgagor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor/Legal Heir and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **RBL Bank Ltd.** has taken **Symbolic POSSESSION** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules as per detail below:

Name and Loan Account Number of the Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Amount Due (Rs.)	Details of the immovable property for which Symbolic Possession is taken	Date of Symbolic Possession
1) M/s. The Other Side, Rep. by its Authorised Signatory Mrs. Prathibha Siyal, No.207, 2 A Cross, Domlur Stage II, Bangalore-560071 **(Borrower)** & **2) Mrs. Prathibha Siyal,** No.153, Narayan Pillai Street, Neharu Puram, Bharathi Nagar, Bangalore-560001 **(Borrower) Also: 3) Mr. Suresh Siyal,** No.153, Narayanpillai Street, Neharu Puram, Bharathi Nagar, Bangalore-560001 **(Co-Borrower), 4) Mr. Subash Siyal,** No.153, Narayan Pillai Street, Neharu Puram, Bharathi Nagar, Bangalore-560001 **(Co-Borrower & Mortgagor). Loan Account No.: 809000716924, 809002736456, 609000434497.**	**Rs.3,22,66,597.77/-** (Rupees Three Crores Twenty Two Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Seven and Paise Seventy Seven Only)	All that piece and parcel of property bearing Municipal No.153, situated at Narayana Pillaiah Street, Bangalore, presently within the limits of BBMP, and bounded on: **East by:** Narayan Pillaiah Street; **West by:** Property No.171 Sepping Road; **North by:** Property No.154MA; **South by:** Property No.152. **Measuring:** East West 37+9.25ft on the West 40.5ft on the North 36+28+17.5+67ft on the south 82+42+25ft, in all measuring 4185 Sq.ft and building constructed thereon, within the Registration District of Bangalore and Sub Registration office.	03-10-2024 **Demand Notice date: 20-03-2024**

The Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **RBL Bank Ltd.**

Place: Bangalore, Date: 07-10-2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, RBL BANK LTD**

BJP MLA D Vedavyas Kamath condemned police action of filing a suo motu case against college lecturer Dr Arun Ullal for alleged hate speech. Kamath accused the police of initiating action against Dr Ullal in order to please the state government, and maintained that there was nothing wrong in Ullal's statement

AI-GENERATED IMAGE

IN B'LURU

TOTAL DOG BITE CASES
18,882

DOG BITES DAILY
40

TOTAL STRAY DOG POPULATION
2,79,335

ANTI-RABIES VACCINES
43,570

REINING IN STRAYS: FEEDING DOGS CAN BLUNT AGGRESSION

Across the state, packs of dogs mauling kids and attacking adults is leading to concern about how to control man's best friend

MOHAMMED YACOOB

THE increasing stray dog menace is leading to fear on the streets. Across Karnataka, there are reports of children being mauled by packs of stray canines, and even the individual feral dog attacking walkers. Concern is rising, and not only is there a fear of rabies spreading due to these attacks in cases where the dog is not vaccinated, there is also a sense of insecurity among people — especially children walking on the roads, elders and women in public areas infested with strays.

Nights are dangerous for two-wheeler riders, who are often chased by groups of dogs, which are almost always on guard, with a degree of possessiveness towards their territory, which heightens during the mating season and when there are pups in the packs.

A new problem has emerged on the outskirts of cities and towns, in the background of a growth in leopard population. Leopards are attracted by dogs, who they hunt. A growth in stray canine population is compounded by the problem of leopards migrating into human habitats as their preying habits are affected due to deforestation, which in turn affects the herbivore population which they otherwise feed on.

BIG PICTURE

The stray canine problem is one that needs immediate attention across the state, although the problem is most prominent in a rapidly and haphazardly-growing city like Bengaluru. Although civic authorities have taken up initiatives in the city, a lot needs to be done. The public also needs to step up adoption to complement the measures taken by the authorities.

According to Suralkar Vikas Kishore, Special Commissioner, Health and Welfare and Animal Husbandry department, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), "As per the 2023 survey, there were over 3.10 lakh stray dogs in Bengaluru city in 2019. Now, the number is reduced to 2.7 lakh because of BBMP implementing the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme."

With 18,822 cases of dog bites in Bengaluru in the past eight months (January to August), BBMP has launched a set of initiatives like the pilot project to insert grain-size microchips in stray dogs to track their territory, neutering, vaccinations and maintain surveillance on their health.

'Feed them, calm them'

BBMP has undertaken 'Coexisting Champion Initiative' for responsible feeding of stray canines to reduce bites due to hunger-based aggression, and is about to launch an integrated vaccination programme as part of measures to reduce and prevent rabies infection.

The Palike also seems to be doing its bit to implement the National Action Plan for Dog Mediated Rabies Elimination (NAPRE) unveiled by the Union government in 2021 to make India a rabies-free nation by 2030. This year, the Palike has so far vaccinated 43,570 dogs with 'Anti Rabies Vaccination' and covered 16,914 stray dogs under its ABC programme, and neutered the animals.

According to Kishore, 30-40 daily cases of dog bite have been recorded since January, and compared to statistics from 2018, the numbers have drastically reduced. The corporation has managed to cover 72 per cent of stray dogs and operated in core areas of Bengaluru, and the majority of the stray dog population is in outskirts like Bommanahalli, RR Nagar and Mahadevapura zone.

One of the observations that experts and animal rights activists have made is that stray dog bite is generally associated with aggression due to hunger, lack of food, provocation, during the mating season or when the dog has littered.

"The corporation will coordinate with animal keepers, civil servants, hotel owners, health department staff and other interested parties to ensure the dogs get proper food," the Special Commissioner said.

The corporation also began to prepare a list of interested people to join the initiative for the responsible feeding of animals -- placing food items at different places to avoid aggression when dogs enter different territories. BBMP has also tied up with Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust to strengthen the ecosystem of managing urban animals in an efficient and empathetic manner by bringing together various stakeholders involved in caring for animals on a day-to-day basis.

"BBMP signed up with the trust to conduct awareness campaigns to various citizen groups through physical drives such as workshops, seminars, school and college fests, focused group discussions, street plays, flash mobs and some social media support for the initiative," said Sadhana Hegde, founder, Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust.

The trust is also collaborating with Bengaluru City Police online and offline, to educate about prevalent animal laws and how man-animal conflicts can be handled through efficient law enforcement.

"So far, we have covered around 10 police stations, over 15 RWAs and are also collaborating with Bengaluru Apartment Federation to implement community animal guidelines that were rolled out a month ago," she stated.

The initiative is being lauded by animal rights activists for a responsible feeding programme. "BBMP's initiative of keeping strays fed with even one meal a day is a welcome step, as it helps to curb their hunger and can result in calmer and harmonious behaviour in dogs. It's good that BBMP can identify feeding spots in RWAs, apartment complexes and societies, but BBMP must strictly bear in mind that dogs are territorial, the eating spots can't be fixed far away as dogs can't be expected to travel far to get their food," said Sujatha Prasanna, an animal rights activist.

Ballari: Unkept promises

The stray dog issue is not limited to Bengaluru. With 5,320 dog bite cases being reported in Ballari and Vijayanagara districts, the administration in Ballari has promised to implement the ABC programme. In 4,830 cases, the bite victims were aged between 2 and 14 years. Unfortunately, five children lost their lives after a pack of rabies-infected stray dogs attacked them in undivided Ballari district. Animal lovers, however, requested the administration to provide at least shelter for stray dogs in the district.

Udupi DC Vidya Kumari K instructed various coordination committees of the health department to curb the increasing number of stray dogs. Udupi CMC Commissioner Rayappa said a tender was floated to conduct an ABC programme to curb stray dog numbers in city limits. He felt a centre should be opened for stray dogs where people can feed them. Donors can come forward to open such centres where stray dogs can be fed, he said.

Deputy Director of the animal husbandry department, Udupi district, Dr Reddappa MC said 1 lakh anti-rabies vaccine doses have reached Udupi district for the year 2024-25.

In Kalaburagi, 515 dog bite incidents were reported this year, up to August 2024. Keshav Motagi, honorary animal welfare representative of the Animal Welfare Board of India of the Central department of animal husbandry, held the Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike (KMP) responsible for the increase in dog bite incidents.

To curb dog bites in the district, KMP Health Officer Dr Rajendra Bhalke said, "The Palike will invite tenders for catching dogs and taking up ABC and ARV whenever people and corporators complain about the stray dog menace. In the past eight months, 424 dogs were subjected to ABC."

Kolar: Rabies vax

In Kolar, government hospital sources say that every day, scores of people go to hospital for rabies vaccine for dog bites. Reacting to the development, Kolar Deputy Commissioner Akram Pasha said, "Regarding animal birth control, already three meetings have been convened and all city and town municipalities were instructed to submit a detailed report. Measures will shortly be taken with the animal husbandry department and NGOs."

The Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation has taken a few steps to curb the menace. The corporation and a few NGOs are giving away puppies to the public interested in rearing puppies. A team of veterinary doctors has also taken up dog sterilization programmes.

The puppy adoption programme has seen some good responses as the puppies which are being given to the public are fully vaccinated to avoid any harm to the animal and public. Nearly 60 puppies have been given to the public.

(With inputs from V Velayudham, Prakash Samaga, Kiran Balannanavar, Ramkrishna Badsheshi, and Mallikarjuna Hiremath)

HDK predicts snap election in state before 2028

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

UNION Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries **HD Kumaraswamy** on Sunday said Karnataka may face snap polls before 2028. "We are not going to remove the Congress government, but it will fall on its own as its pot of sins is full. We need not wait until 2028 for the elections as we may face them before that," he said at a public rally at Iggaluru village in Channapatna taluk.

He claimed that if elections are held, JDS will win all the four seats in Ramanagara district. Both Kumaraswamy and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who are waiting for the by-election to Channapatna, have already started campaigning. Shivakumar recently told voters that they should elect the Congress candidate taking him into consideration, while Kumaraswamy appealed to voters to elect the BJP-JDS alliance candidate.

Though there was pressure from JDS workers at the public rally to field his son Nikhil, Kumaraswamy did not accede to their demand. "Whoever may be the candidate, you should ensure that person's victory," he said.

"There is no confusion as BJP and JDS leaders will sit across the table and decide on the alliance candidate," he said.

Nikhil told the media that he is focusing on organising the party and will not contest the bypoll. At the rally, he said that during his tour of six districts, he understood the pulse of the people and voters want Kumaraswamy back as chief minister, considering his performance as CM in the past.

The father and son attacked Shivakumar, saying he visits the district only during elections, and forgets the constituency once the polls are over. They felt that people of Channapatna will not let JDS down as they have consistently voted for party candidates.

"I have contributed immensely for the overall development of the constituency and under the present Congress government too, I have received grants by requesting the ministers concerned. Let Shivakumar, who has visited Channapatna 20 times in the last three months, produce documents on his contributions to the constituency," Kumaraswamy challenged. He alleged that Shivakumar took credit for developing three government schools under the CSR initiative, though the work happened when he was the constituency MLA, he added.

Nikhil claimed that Kumaraswamy has got the district development work worth Rs 1,500 crore. On Shivakumar's allegation that Kumaraswamy let down the people of Channapatna by resigning as MLA, Nikhil explained, "It was inevitable for Kumaraswamy to contest the Mandya LS polls as the situation was like that in the state. But he is still concerned about the people of Ramanagara district."

Transfer CM post to DKS as per pact, Sindhia tells CM

BENGALURU: Veteran leader and former minister **PGR Sindhia** here on Sunday suggested to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to the CM's post to DCM DK Shivakumar after two and half years of his tenure as per the agreement reached at the high command level last year. "I don't know about the agreement, but both of you should adhere to it," he said at the launch of a book, 'Samartha Jana Nayaaka' on former MP VS Ugrappa. Sindhia, who was Siddaramaiah's colleague in the Janata Dal government headed by JH Patel, asked Siddaramaiah not to be disheartened by the allegations of opposition, but to continue as CM. Sindhia, who is now with Congress and has become a sympathiser of Shivakumar, likened Siddaramaiah to former CM Devaraj Urs in delivering social justice to the oppressed. Siddaramaiah said, "It's not apt to say Ugrappa and Sindhia sailed in the same boat as the former joined Congress earlier. But he remained inactive in the party as he had other responsibilities. Sindhia joined the party only after me. Despite our differences of opinion, we were good friends." Shivakumar claimed that he helped Ugrappa become Council opposition leader even as Mallikarjun Kharge was not in favour of it. Shivakumar also claimed that he helped Ugrappa get the Ballari Lok Sabha ticket despite Siddaramaiah, who had promised it to someone, was against it. Siddaramaiah admitted to it in his speech and lamented that Ugrappa has not been a minister. "I will try to help. I am in the twilight of my political life, but Ugrappa still has a future. Let's see how things pan out," he said. **ENS**

ABOLISH GUV'S POST TO SAVE DEMOCRACY: RAVIVARMA KUMAR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

ALLEGING that "governors of states threaten the democracy and federal system of the country", former chairman of the Permanent Backward Classes Commission and senior advocate Ravivarma Kumar on Sunday called for the abolition of the governor's post.

Speaking on 'Constitution and the Working of Federal System', at a talk organised by the Dasara National Conference Sub-Committee and University of Mysore's Dr BR Ambedkar Research and Extension Centre at Senate Bhavan on Sunday, Kumar said while the President and Prime Minister are elected in the country, there is one power centre that is not an elected body. "That power centre is a nominee of the Union Government. Those senior ministers at the Centre sacked from their posts, are given the post of governors and sent to states, in what is considered like a 'rehabilitation centre'. The threat to democracy is that governors are appointed to states which are run by those political parties not in power at the Centre, and governors tend to destabilises state governments, which is a threat to democracy and federalism," he claimed.

Claiming that Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundarajan, and West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose have consistently clashed with respective state governments over clearing of bills and appointments, Kumar said the governors have made it impossible for state governments to carry out administration.

Senior advocate Ravivarma Kumar speaks in Mysuru on Sunday | UDAYASHANKAR S

"Through this, the federal structure has been weakened. Governors are not just a threat to democracy, but also for federalism. We should demand the abolition of the governor's posts, if we want the federal system to survive in the country. If we launch agitations and succeed, the federal system will be healthy and alive," he said.

He claimed that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) is also a threat to the federal system. "The states which are supreme as per the Constitution today are reduced to bowing before the Centre with a begging bowl, urging that their financial dues be cleared. The Karnataka government has approached the Supreme Court to take its share. This is not good for the federal system," he claimed.

Implement caste census even if it ends in govt's fall, says BKH

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

Amid opposition from dominant communities, senior Congress leader **BK Hariprasad** said the state government must immediately implement the caste census report, whatever be the consequences.

"There is no question of opposition. It is required for all-round development and will be good for everyone, including them (those opposing it). If it leads to the government's fall, so be it. Why should we be afraid of it," the Congress legislator asked.

The caste census implementation is a prominent part of the Congress' election manifesto, and there is no need for dilly-dallying, and senior leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge have also emphasised it, he said. "Rahul Gandhi himself said that caste census should be implemented. If there are any lacunae in it, they can be rectified. Even if the world turns upside down, it should be implemented," he said, when asked about dominant communities opposing the caste census.

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara said a decision would be taken after it is discussed in the cabinet. "After discussing in the cabinet, a decision will be taken if it should be released or it has to be tabled in the Assembly. The cabinet can decide to release it," he said.

If the Centre takes up a caste census next year, the state can make appropriate changes in its report, since when it comes to census, the Centre's report is used for all purposes, the minister said, responding to a question if the state government needs to wait for the Centre's census.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had earlier made it clear that any decision on the implementation of the caste census will be taken after discussing it in the cabinet and also with the Congress high command.

Given opposition from dominant Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities, the state government will be cautious in implementing the report. Akhil Bharat Veerashaiva Mahasabha president and senior Congress leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa has strongly opposed the report. Many Vokkaliga leaders in Congress have also opposed it.

Meanwhile, the Opposition BJP has termed the debate on the caste census as an attempt to divert attention from the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) sites allotment scam case against Siddaramaiah.

BJP state president BY Vijayendra said if Siddaramaiah was serious about implementing it, he should have done it in his earlier tenure as CM.

Dil, a 13-year-old female green anaconda at the T'puram Zoo, passed away due to age-related issues. It had been undergoing treatment for a tumour in its tail. Dil arrived at the zoo in April 2014 from the Dehiwala Zoological Park in Sri Lanka, when she was just two-and-a-half-years old. Currently only one green anaconda remains at the zoo

TUMULTUOUS FINISH

Five dead as air show in Chennai ends in chaos

Die of suspected dehydration; 300 faint; Temperature rises to 35 degrees Celsius

GAUTHAM SELVARAJAN @Chennai

THE VISUAL spectacle put up by the Indian Air Force at the air show on Marina Beach on Sunday was overshadowed by the gross mismanagement of authorities that left thousands of people struggling to leave the venue and resulted in five deaths.

The deceased were identified as D John (56) of Korukkupet, Karthikeyan (34) of Tiruvottiyur, Srinivasan of Perungalathur, Mani (55) of Marakkanam and Dinesh. Hospital authorities are awaiting autopsy results to ascertain the cause of the death.

Air show at Marina beach on Sunday

Amid the heat of the day -- Meenambakkam recorded a high of 35 degree celsius -- and suffocation caused by crowd density several thousands of people were stranded at the venue for over an hour as traffic came to a standstill after the 15 lakh people estimated to have attended the show were allowed to exit all at once from the exit points.

With neither Law & Order nor Traffic police personnel in sight, the crowd, resembling a huge procession, made its way to main junctions. As a result, two-wheelers, cars and even some of the 40 ambulances stationed for emergencies at the venue, were unable to move for hours. Three MTC buses were are stranded in the sea of people.

Outside the Government Estate Metro Station, huge crowds were seen trying to enter the station. Eventually, passengers were were allowed to go through the exits as well inside the station. At the Velachery MRTS station, people were seen hanging from the compartments and travelling. Traffic was effectively affected in most of the city as well, despite it being a Sunday. In the melee, over 300 people are reported to have fainted and hospital sources said at least 43 were treated at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital. At least 200 people were administered first aid at the venue by emergency care staff while others were rushed to nearby hospitals, including the Government Royapettah hospital.

Source said, John, one of the deceased, had attended the event with his brother-in-law Shyam Kumar, and wife Elisamma. While returning, he fainted while walking along Kamarajar Salai. He was taken to the hospital and was declared dead. Karthikeyan, fainted while returning from the show by bike.

₹941 cr-gold diversion scam by 6 Chennai jewellers unearthed

SIDDHARTH PRABHAKAR @Chennai

THE Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and Chennai Customs unearthed a Rs 941-crore scam, in which six jewellers from Chennai had allegedly diverted around 2,170 kg of gold under the pretext of exporting gold jewellery to Dubai and Malaysia between 2020 and 2022. Having registered as exporters, the jewellers procured thousands of kilogrammes of imported duty-free gold bars from RBI nominated agencies, such as banks and government bodies, under the agreement that they would be used for manufacturing gold jewellery for export.

However, only 10% of the gold was used to manufacture jewellery and the rest was diverted into the open market by allegedly selling it in black. Chennai Air Cargo Complex principal customs commissioner M Mathew Jolly, in his two detailed investigation reports in January 2023 and September 2024, alleged that the manufactured gold jewellery was mis-declared as 22 carat and exported with the collusion of a group of customs officers, who had accepted huge bribes for clearance.

Several jewellery manufacturers in Mumbai, Kolkata, Rajkot and Chennai were co-opted in this industrial-scale scam to both manufacture imitation gold jewellery and divert the pure gold bars illegally into the open market. The investigation showed that the six exporters procured 2,507 kg of pure gold but used only 337.02 kg to manufacture jewellery and diverted 2,170 kg worth ₹941 crore into the black market. Nearly 2,612 kg of imitation gold jewellery was exported fraudulently, the investigation has alleged.

The investigation reports stated that this fraud had caused a massive loss to the government exchequer on account of customs duty, GST and Income Tax, and had violated several laws, including the Customs Act. The probe also indicated a massive money laundering exercise as it details how cash was sent abroad through Hawala channels.

Besides the six jewellers, several manufacturers, a few customs officials, the logistics firm that handled the consignments, a top private sector bank and a major public sector government agency are in the dock because of this scam.

SWAY & SWIRL

People perform garba during the Navaratri celebrations in Hyderabad on Sunday | SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN

Woman suffers abuse from employer in Muscat, pleads with govt to rescue her

Vijayawada: A woman from Yeturu village in Chandarlapadu mandal of NTR district, alleged severe physical and mental abuse by her employer after going to Muscat for work. In a video that surfaced online on Sunday, the woman, identified as Devi, appealed to the Andhra Pradesh government for help, pleading to be rescued from her abusive situation. Devi explained that she had approached a travel agent a few months ago seeking employment in Gulf countries. Upon arrival, Devi found no employment as promised. She further claimed that her employer locked her in a room and deprived her of food. The travel agent who facilitated her travel, also allegedly threatened her and blocked her phone, cutting off communication with her family and authorities.

LET HINDU TRUSTS MANAGE HINDU TEMPLES: PEJAWAR SEER

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mangaluru

PEJAWAR Math seer and trustee of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, Sri Vishwaprasanna Tirtha Swamiji, on Sunday said there is a need set up trusts in Hindu temples across the country on the lines of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Trust to oversee the management of temples and to prevent any irregularities, in the light of laddu controversy at Tirupati temple.

He said the Supreme Court has made a similar suggestion, stating that all Hindu religious shrines should be returned to Hindus and freedom ensured, similar to how other religions manage their shrines.

"Other religions are free to manage their religious shrines, but even after many decades of Independence, most Hindu temples are under the government's control. Hindus have their own rules and regulations for religious practices. Those who follow and respect those practices should oversee the management of temples. Let Ayodhya-like trusts be formed for all such temples across the country," he said.

On concerns over the safety and standard of prasadams served at temples, he said government machinery should function properly to ensure the quality of food and advised temples to explore the possibility of opening gaushalas of their own to source milk and ghee.

He said the second phase of construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya has already begun and it could be completed in at least a year-and-a-half. The repair work to fix the leaking roof has been taken up, he added.

55 mining trucks stuck in flood waters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

OVER 55 mining trucks were stuck in flood waters in the Sandur mining area. Local residents rescued around 25 truck drivers who were stuck inside their vehicles. The district administration said paddy, banana and chilli crops in over 9,000 hectares were washed away.

In both Ballari and Vijayanagara districts, senior officials rushed to villages where intense damage was reported. Undivided Ballari MP E Tukaram also inspected the rain-hit areas and visited villages where heavy rain was reported.

In Nargund and surrounding areas of Gadag district, roads turned into mini-rivers after heavy rain on Saturday night. The region received incessant rain for over two hours, forcing people to spend a sleepless night. The rainwater got mixed with drainage water and flooded many houses.

A mining lorry submerged in flood waters after heavy rain lashed Ballari district

EXPRESS READ

Odisha CM to attend LWE meeting today

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Sunday left on a three-day visit to New Delhi. He is scheduled to attend the meeting of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected states and several programmes during his stay in the national capital. Union Home minister Amit Shah on Monday will take a review of Maoists activities and the ongoing fight against LWE in the affected states. The meeting assumes significance in the wake of the success achieved by security forces in Chhattisgarh.

Senior citizen dies in wall collapse

Davangere: A senior citizen died, when a wall collapsed due to heavy rain in Santhebennuru village of Channagiri taluk on Sunday. The deceased Kulagatte Basavarajappa (81) stayed with his son and daughter-in-law. While both of the ran out of the house as soon as the wall started to collapse, Basavarajappa was caught in the debris and died on the spot. Channagiri tahsildar Rukminibai visited the spot and handed over a cheque of Rs 5 lakhs to the family of the deceased.

10 houses submerged in flash floods in Udupi

Udupi: Due to sudden surge in the flow of water in a rivulet in Kabbinale, beneath the western ghat region in Balladi area of Mudradi gram panchayat of Hebri taluk on Sunday evening, more than 10 houses were submerged in the flood water. Two cars and bikes were washed away but no casualties were reported. Paddy, rubber, areca nut, coconut and banana crop grown in about 150 acres of land have been damaged in the flash flood incident.

One killed, two injured in boiler blast

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

AN ODISHA native died while two others were injured after a mini boiler in an animal fat processing plant in Kochi's Edayar Industrial Estate exploded late on Saturday night. Gas leak is suspected as the reason for the blast.

Bikram Pradhan, 36, a native of Siriki village in the Gudayagiri block of Odisha's Kandhamal district, died in the explosion at Formal Trade Links LLP facility around 11.40pm. Krishna, 20, and Guru, 35, of the same village suffered burn injuries and are under treatment at Ernakulam Government Medical College Hospital (GMCH). The police said Pranab Pradan, 20, also from Siriki, was treated for injuries at the emergency wing and discharged.

"Four people were hospitalised following the explosion. Bikram Pradhan was declared dead on arrival, while Pranab Pradan was treated for injuries at the emergency wing and discharged," said an official. Ernakulam GMCH superintendent Dr Ganesh Mohan said Guru suffered 35% burns, while Krishna suffered 25% burns. "They are under treatment," he said.

Upon getting an alert, the police and fire and rescue services personnel quickly reached the scene and launched rescue efforts.

Their swift intervention prevented the blaze from spreading, thereby minimising the damage. Authorities suspect a gas leak in the mini boiler led to the explosion, but said a probe is on. Preliminary inquiry suggests that the firm flouted safety standards. An inspection revealed that the boiler in the plant was being operated without adhering to required regulations. "A detailed investigation by the Binanipuram police is on.

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bangalore – 560064
TENDER NOTICE NO.RWF/S/P1/007/2024-25 dt.03.10.24
On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager invites electronic Tenders from Interested Vendors for supply of the following items on the Indian Railways E-Portal – www.ireps.gov.in. The Tender documents and the Corrigenda to the Tenders, if any, will be available on the Portal only.

Sl	Tender No	Due date	Short Description	Qty
1	P1241905	21-10-24	Silica sand-45 AFS as per RWF specification	1500 MT
2	P1241879	23-10-24	Inserts Inux 38 X 22 X 40 P-30 to P-40	10350 Nos.
3	P1242094	04-11-24	Ferro manganese as per RWF specification	569700 Kgs.
4	P1241998	27-11-24	Magnesite wet ramming mass as per RWF specification	1258350 Kgs.
5	P1241921	05-12-24	Calcined lime as per RWF specification	8034 MT
E-Reverse Auction				
1	P1241930	28-10-24	Steel Blooms 300mm R-16 as per RWF specification	69075 MT

Principal Chief Materials Manager

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE/Tr(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-2/T-64/24-25/4252-58 Date: 04.10.2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)
KPTCL invites Tenders for Providing manpower services for carrying out shift duties and operations works at various locations in Transmission (W&M) Circle, Munirabad for the following sub-stations.
Bid Enquiry No. SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-2/24-25/Shift Duties/ 01 to 08 & 10 to 51. Dated: 04.10.2024.
1. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1300,** 66kV S/S Sovenahalli.
2. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1301,** 110kV S/S Kamalapura
3. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1302,** 110kV S/S Metri.
4. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1303,** 110kV S/S Ittagi (Kampli).
5. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1304,** 66kV S/S Chilakanahatti.
6. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1305,** 110kV S/S Emmiganuru.
7. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1306,** 66kV S/S Kogali.
8. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1307,** 66kV S/S Hosahalli
9. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1308,** 66kV S/S Giriyapura.
10. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1309,** 66kV S/S Chornur.
11. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1310,** 66kV S/S Hanasi.
12. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1311,** 66kV S/S Moregera.
13. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1312,** 66kV S/S Magala.
14. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1313,** 66kV S/S Holagundi.
15. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1314,** 66kV S/S B.G.Halli (Bachigonda nahalli).
16. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1315,** 66kV S/S Haravi.
17. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1316,** 220kV R/S Kudligi (Badeladaku).
18. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1317,** 220kV R/S Neelagunda.
19. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1318,** 66kV S/S Nimbalagere.
20. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1319,** 66kV S/S Hudem
21. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1320,** 110kV S/S P.D.Halli.
22. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1321,** 110kV S/S Bisilahalli.
23. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1322,** 110kV S/S Somasamudra.
24. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1323,** 110kV S/S Halakundi.
25. **Tender No. KPTCL/2024-25/SE1324,** 110kV S/S Kudathini.
26. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1325,** 110kV S/S KIADB Kudathini.
27. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1326,** 220kV R/S Halavarthi (Koppal).
28. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1327,** 110kV S/S Hanumanal.
29. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1328,** 110kV S/S Hiregonnagara.
30. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1329,** 110kV S/S Sriramanagara.
31. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1330,** 110kV S/S Kanakagiri.
32. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1331,** 110kV S/S Venkatagiri.
33. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1332,** 110kV S/S Kerehalli.
34. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1333,** 110kV S/S Mukkunda.
35. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1334,** 110kV S/S Ginigera.
36. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1335,** 110kV S/S Ganadal.
37. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1336,** 110kV S/S Navali.
38. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1337,** 110kV S/S Turvihal.
39. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1338,** 110kV S/S Dhadesugur.
40. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1339,** 110kV S/S Mudugal.
41. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1340,** 110kV S/S Gurugunta.
42. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1341,** 110kV S/S Maski.
43. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1342,** 110kV S/S Mallapura.
44. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1343,** 110kV S/S Bennur.
45. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1344,** 110kV S/S Muddapura.
46. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1345,** 110kV S/S Mangaluru.
47. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1346,** 110kV S/S Kavithal.
48. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1347,** 110kV S/S Talakal.
49. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1348,** 110kV S/S Hanawala.
50. **Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE1349,** 110kV S/S Chilakamukhi.

Tenders will be received through KPP Portal mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or directly logging on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **10.10.2024 at 11:00Hrs**. Details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- **Superintending Engineer (Ele.), Tr.(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad - 583 233. Ph: 08539-270094.**

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)
Finance Department
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.
1. Aggregate Amount: **Total Rs.4000 Crore, (Rs.2000 Crore-08 Year Tenure) and (Rs.2000 Crore-09 Year Tenure)**
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort).
3. Date of Auction : **October 08, 2024.**
Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bengaluru. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in**
Sd/- (Dr. P. C. Jaffer)
Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources), Finance Department
DIPR/CP/RO/2342/2024-25

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-3/F-324(8)/24-25/5054-55 Date: 05.10.2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka public procurement portal only)
KPTCL invites bids for the following works:
1) Bid enquiry no: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-3/24-25/EPR-04 Dt 30.08.2024** for "**Hiring the services of one number of driver for driving Insulated Aerial Work platform 12 Wheeler-30 Ton Heavy Vehicle & Tempo traveler vehicle and Insulated Sky Ladder Pick up vehicle pertaining to Hotline Sub-Division, SRS Peenya**" pertaining to BMAZ North Circle, Bengaluru.
The Detailed Notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on or after **08.10.2024** to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper Link **'E Procurement KPTCL'** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,
Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ, North Circle, Ground Floor, KPTCL Office Complex, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

Your Guide to Spicy Living INDULGE

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (Only through kpp portal)
BWSSB invites tenders in Two cover system from eligible tenderers for the following works.
Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender / EMD Amount
No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE (W) /ACE(W)-I/DCE(M)-2/TA(W)/5389/2024-25		Dt: 05.10.2024
1	work of Providing and laying various dia DI Water supply lines in lieu of existing CI lines in BCC layout & Gangondanahalli DMA (Part- 2) coming under Chandra Layout Service Station, area of AEEW(1-2) Sub Division	Rs.277.74 Lakhs / Rs.4.17 Lakhs
No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE (W) /ACE(W)-I/DCE(M)-2/TA(W)/5390/2024-25		Dt: 05.10.2024
2	work of Providing and laying various dia DI Water supply lines in lieu of existing CI lines in Cauverypura, coming under Vijayanagar OHT Service Station, area of AEEW(1-2) Sub Division	Rs.142.70 Lakhs / Rs.2.15 Lakhs
No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE (W) /ACE(W)-I/DCE(M)-2/TA(W)/5391/2024-25		Dt: 05.10.2024
3	work of Providing and laying various dia DI Water supply lines in lieu of existing CI lines in BCC layout & Gangonahalli layout DMA (part-1) coming under Chandra Layout Service Station area of AEEW(1-2) Sub Division	Rs.159.97 Lakhs / Rs.2.40 Lakhs
No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(W)/ACE(W)-I/DCE(M)-2/TA(W)/5392/2024-25		Dt: 05.10.2024
4	work of providing, laying of of various dia DI feeder main distribution pipeline to replace existing old leaky water mains to Remco layout DMA coming under Hosahalli service station of AEEW-(1-1) Sub Division	Rs.199.03 Lakhs / Rs.2.99 Lakhs
No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(W)/ACE(W)-I/DCE(M)-2/TA(W)/5393/2024-25		Dt: 05.10.2024
5	Work of providing and laying linking 100mm, 150mm dia DI line with fixing of new sluice valves and providing MS specials and DI specials in lieu of leaky 100mm, 150mm dia CI line at BEML 7th stage phase-1 and 11 and different locations of Ideal Homes s/stn limits coming under Ideal home S/Stn. of AEEW (2-1) Sub Division	Rs.222.92 Lakhs / Rs.3.35 Lakhs

The last date for submission of completed tender document is on 21.10.2024 upto 16.00 hrs. and the bids will be opened on 22.10.2024 after 15.00 hrs.
Sd/- Chief Engineer (West)
The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/2391/AKAR/2024-25

EDITORIAL

"I want to see lasting and meaningful peace achieved in Sri Lanka as early as possible. But I am aware that peace cannot just be wished; it involves hard work, courage and persistence

Arthur C Clarke

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

RESOLVE LABOUR UNREST WITHOUT CAUSING DISRUPTION

THE month-long workers' strike at the Samsung plant in Tamil Nadu is reminiscent of the 1970s and 1980s, when employee protests were a constant irritant in the country's industrial hubs. With the politically connected labour unions always in a battle-mode, such strikes in the pre-liberalisation era led to the downfall of several manufacturing hubs in the country such as Kanpur, Kolkata and Punjab. Even the textile mills of Mumbai were once notorious for their militant labour unions. We now know how some of these manufacturing hubs have been in complete disarray as promoters of companies shifted their base to relatively more business-friendly centres such as Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka – even though these states had their own share of labour problems. The strike in the Samsung factory in TN is for higher average salary and better working conditions. The workers have been complaining of low average salary of ₹25,000 a month and long working hours in unfavourable working conditions. They are demanding fixed 8-hour shifts and a hike in average salary to ₹36,000 a month. The workers have also demanded more frequent breaks without being penalised by the management.

While these demands are not unfair, labour unions cannot be allowed to disrupt day-to-day operations of the factory. However, poor working conditions remain an issue of constant debate. A few months ago, a similar issue erupted in Amazon's Manesar facility in Haryana, where workers complained of long working hours with little or no breaks and low salaries. Similar issues came to the fore when a young chartered accountant in EY collapsed and died allegedly unable to bear the work culture.

While the government (Centre or the state) has a limited role to play in matters like these, it can ensure effective labour laws are in place, and chalk out a better mediation system to diffuse labour disputes. The Centre and state government should collaborate to timely douse the fire of labour dispute and prevent it from spreading to other states. There is a need for political will to put in place labour law reforms which are balanced and not tilted too much in favour of the corporates or employees. Promoters must also ensure they have the trust of employees and should not be seen as anti-workers. At a time when India is striving hard to expand its manufacturing base, resolving labour unrest with minimal disruption is the way forward.

RIGHT TO PRIVACY HIT BY POLITICAL ATTACKS

POLITICAL rhetoric, particularly in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, has always been problematic. While some utterances were understandable if seen in the context in which they were made, others were malicious in nature but the loud mouths have always, with a few exceptions, have had their way. The list of culprits is long and illustrious. Unprintable expletives have made their way into the political lexicon and several leaders of all parties use them whenever it suits them.

The latest to join their ranks is Telangana Endowments Minister Konda Surekha, a firebrand of the Congress. She has a history of making stinging remarks but what she said about former IT minister and BRS working president K T Rama Rao and actors Samantha, Naga Chaitanya, and Nagarjuna has shocked everyone. Her target was KTR and, she held him responsible for the divorce of Samantha and Chaitanya. Though she retracted her remarks, it didn't seem like she was remorseful since she threatened KTR that she wouldn't let him walk free. Just as for everything, her ugly outburst too has a context. She was trolled by BRS supporters after she attended a function wherein a BJP leader felicitated her. The social media trolling was equally disgusting and for that, BRS senior leader Harish Rao had apologized too. In fact, the minister teared up. In her own words, she did the unthinkable in a fit of anger. One wrong doesn't make another right. That too, as she holds public office she ought to have known that she cannot violate the right to privacy of others, and level utterly defamatory charges.

The worst-affected parties here, KTR, Nagarjuna and Naga Chaitanya, have taken legal recourse as they are entitled to. But the problem is that when a minister and a politician makes such comments, at least a sizeable section of the population tend to believe, for, it is scandalous in nature. The damage done is irreparable. It is a wonder that a few Congress leaders have come out in the minister's support. The party ought to take disciplinary action against her to send a message that it doesn't encourage irresponsible conduct. After all, the right to privacy, as per the apex court, is an intrinsic part of the right to life and liberty. There is another political angle as well. In one fell swoop, she managed to relegate the debate on Musi encroachments to the background. That, is a disservice to the people.

QUICK TAKE

HOW TO BE A SINGAPORE

SEVERAL Indian politicians have, over time, promised their electorates to transform their state capitals into something as glitzy, clean and efficient as Singapore. But the bit about the city state they perhaps did not have in their sights is its extremely low level of corruption. It has just charged former transport minister S Iswaran and property billionaire Ong Beng Seng for corruption. The state's tallest leader, former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, ensured that his ministers were among the highest paid in the world. At the same time, he instituted a strong anti-corruption framework. Those features should be emulated among Indian states, too.

The island nation's new president has promised to tackle burning issues like corruption, terrorism, and the economic crisis. But the challenge will be delivering on these post November 14

CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR SRI LANKA'S NEW ADMINISTRATION

DILRUKSHI HANDUNNETTI

Award-winning journalist and lawyer; founder and director of the Colombo-based Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR)

SOURAV ROY

IN September, Sri Lankans broke their faith with the island's political elites and elected left-leaning Anura Kumara Dissanayake, leader of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) and the National Peoples' Power (NPP). The economic collapse, hardships placed on the people and the governance crisis resulting in public protests changed the island's political future.

The installation of a new president representing a diametrically opposite political ideology was phase 1 of political transformation, and phase 2 is marked by the parliamentary election. What happens between now and November 14 is, hence, future defining. In general, there is cautious optimism that this political experiment may yield some results—at least, at this moment.

With the September victory, the JVP, NPP's main constituent partner, has ended years of political stagnation and been propelled to lead a nation that requires complete rebuilding. For its own part, the JVP/NPP has risen from the ashes, increasing its support base from a mere 3 percent to 42 percent last month.

However, while there may be both appreciation and apprehensions about the JVP, a party that continues to generate extreme public responses, it has shown its ability to mobilise public support, an improvement made possible both by public anxiety and rejection of the old guard as well as the JVP/NPP's new rallying call around a fresh political agenda that takes into account specifics that need urgent addressing.

Phase 2 will be different. Firstly, 42 percent of the popular mandate was cast in favour of an individual, Anura Kumara Dissanayake, the most trusted political figure at present. He has a carefully cultivated public image, particularly over the recent years, coupled with a sustained mass appeal. What was offered from the presidential platform has caught the public's imagination and the broader electorate has shown confidence in said agenda.

In the past three weeks, the new president has demonstrated pragmatism by engaging with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and by offering an assurance for its continuity—but with room to make some necessary alterations to reduce the burden on the public. There is also a presidential pledge to the Catholic church to bring to book the perpetrators of the Easter Sunday attacks. Similarly, there are other undertakings to end impunity and bring out the truth relating to the mystery murders of iconic editor Lasantha Wickrematunge as well as Wasim Thajudeen, a popular rugby player whose murder remains highly contentious. Then there is the most difficult of them all, the anti-corruption and reformist agenda to improve the current political cesspit.

Prior to the parliamentary elections, the JVP/NPP is required to let the public know how things are meant to change—how the promised agenda will be implemented post November 14. To get there, the new administration will require at least a working majority, 113 seats in the House.

The general trend is to vote the incumbency into office, which should make it somewhat easy for the JVP/NPP to muster the required seats. However, since the introduction of the 1978 Constitution and the complex preferential voting system, voters do cast their preferential votes. The JVP has consistently campaigned against marking preferences, but it is part of the voter psyche by now.

Beyond the euphoria lies the political reality that beyond some well-known political figures, the JVP/NPP is going to introduce very fresh faces. The voters are decidedly tired of traditional political parties and their breed that continues as if retirement is anathema. Still, there is a need for the electorate to know the candidates to ensure a clear win. It is going to be a case of attempting to shift numbers, from 3 to 113—at a minimum. While it would not be daunting, it is impossible to expect a landslide victory.

The JVP/NPP's main Achilles heel is its inability to address Sri Lanka's minorities, making up 20 percent of the electorate. Despite recent modernisations and the influx of professional women into politics and the appointment of a female PM after 24 years, the president's party does not relate well to ethno-religious minorities. If this drawback were addressed, Dissanayake would have cleared the 50 percent plus 1 mark without hindrance.

Post nominations, this would be the first issue the president's party must address. Their lack of demonstrated empathy for the war disappeared, land return, justice and reparation made the Marxist party uncomfortable with the Marxist ideology itself. As Dissanayake stated in his inaugural address, there is a deep need to win the trust and support of those who did not vote for him, and this can be effectively achieved through the upcoming parliamentary elections if only a genuine attempt is made to show commitment to resolving outstanding issues of the people of the North and East.

At present, the president relies on a Sinhala Buddhist mandate, ironically the same base enjoyed by hawkish former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa. For Sri Lanka to move forward, both politically and economically, this unification process is mandatory. It can be done only by treating their specific political and economic issues with due respect.

Post November 14, the new administration will not have the opportunity to experiment but simply launch into economic recovery. This will be combined with the daunting task of keeping promises to the IMF and balancing the rough seas of the India-China-US geostrategic and economic interests. The proposed production-based economy is for the long-term. In short, there is a dire need to generate revenue, attract foreign direct investment, give tourism a massive push, and increase exports.

This is likely to be one of the most enduring challenges before the new administration. There will be economic upheavals and geopolitical consideration that make things more complex.

The second challenge would be to deliver on the governance agenda. The public would want to see heads roll, a few arrests on corruption charges and others linked to impunity. This will be the litmus test as the party has catapulted into political power on the basis that corruption will be weeded out. It will have to start with the public service and move to politicians. Political rhetoric apart, this will require evidence beyond reasonable doubt and may prove hard to come by, a test the JVP/NPP must overcome.

(Views are personal)

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OLD PROMISES TO THE JEWS FROM AGES PAST

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

WITH Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, falling last week between October 2 and 4, and Israel in the news, I recalled my experience of another important Jewish festival. Years ago, I was invited to the Passover Seder at the Judah Hyam Synagogue in Delhi. The invitation was from Rabbi Ezekiel Isaac Malekar, who heads the tiny Jewish community of less than ten families in Delhi.

Passover, or Pesach in Hebrew, is the Jewish festival of freedom that marks the exodus of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. It occurs in March or April. As Jewish sources tell it, the story harks back 3,400 years to the family of Jacob, who fled their home in Canaan, or ancient Israel, to escape a terrible famine. They found their way to Egypt where they were welcomed, and grew in numbers. But when a new pharaoh came to power, he feared the growing Israelite population and enslaved them. This oppression continued for 210 years.

Moses, an Israelite infant who escaped the pharaoh's decree to kill Jewish babies and grew up half-Egyptian in the palace itself, heard God's call from a burning bush in the desert to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. He negotiated with the pharaoh for the Israelites' freedom. This led to a conflict between God, who wanted freedom for the Israelites, and pharaoh, who epitomised the cruel forces of tyranny and enslavement. God broke pharaoh's arrogance by inflicting ten plagues on Egypt.

During the night of the final plague, God "passed over" and protected the houses of the Israelites, giving the festival its name. Finally, with the Egyptian army chasing after them, God, symbolised by Moses's out-flung arm, split the waters of the Red Sea, allowing the Israelites to escape. Since they fled Egypt in haste, the Israelite slaves did not have time for their plain bread to leaven and rise, giving Passover its big symbol, matzah, which is Hebrew for 'unleavened bread'.

To me, the most touching thing in the story of the Exodus is that Miriam, the sister of Aaron, took her tambourine with her as she was so sure of crossing safely and being able to sing and dance in God's praise. Now that's faith.

The central ritual of Pesach is the Seder, a special meal that takes place on the eve of Passover at home with family and friends, or with the community. It is a teaching experience for both children and adults. The Seder begins by reading the Haggadah, a 2000-year-old book that retells the story of the Exodus from Egypt in detail. Children sing 'The Four Questions', called Mah Nishtanah in Hebrew, which introduce the retelling of the story.

The other main part of the Seder is eating ritual foods symbolic of the journey of the Jews from slavery to freedom: four small cups of wine, symbols of joy; bitter herbs, reminding Jews of the suffering of slavery; green leafy vegetables representing the gifts of spring and renewed life; and matzah, the thin, crisp unleavened bread, which is both the poor bread of slaves and the symbol of Jewish freedom.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

One part of the Seder is eating ritual foods symbolic of the journey from slavery to freedom: four small cups of wine, symbols of joy; bitter herbs, reminding Jews of the suffering of slavery; green leafy vegetables representing the gifts of spring and renewed life; and matzah, the thin, crisp unleavened bread, the symbol of freedom

I had enjoyed matzah ball soup very much at the home of American Jews in Chicago and was very touched by the sincerity and fervour with which they had arranged the dinner to share their culture with me. So, matzah was one of the special things I looked forward to at the Seder in Delhi.

The international community of Jews, whoever happened to be in Delhi, was also gathered there for the Seder. We shared food and then they sang. The love, longing and pain in their voices and deep gratitude to God for their deliverance was immensely moving. They sang as though they themselves were crossing over from slavery to freedom, reliving the experience of their ancestors. I felt one with them, thanking God for bringing us through the vicissitudes of our own history. Mitzrayim, the Hebrew word for Egypt, means "the narrow place". The festival calls for Jews to introspect on where they feel constricted in their lives and what they can do to attain freedom.

Jews believe they have a special relationship with God, whom they trust for their eventual well-being. Through centuries of torture, religious taxes and persecution (but not in India), they clung to the faith of their ancestors. They renewed their hope with their central affirmation: *Shema Yisrael, Adonai Eloihanu, Adonai Echad*, meaning 'Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One' (Deuteronomy 6:4 in the Old Testament).

When they were given their promised land after centuries of being a scattered people, they recalled God's promise in Isaiah 11:12—'He will raise a signal for the nations and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.' Also, God's promise through Isaiah 46:4 is, 'I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.' Further, in Isaiah 54:17, is the assurance, 'No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgement you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me, says the Lord.'

As observers, we can well imagine how Jews down the ages found strength in these words, especially from Deuteronomy 33:29: 'Blessed are you, Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord? He is your shield and helper and your glorious sword. Your enemies will cower before you, and you will tread on their heights.'

(Views are personal)

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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Strong leadership

Ref: *BJP hunts for an assertive new chief* (Oct 6). The editorial highlights the urgent need for strong leadership within the BJP as it faces internal turmoil and electoral challenges. The party's search for a capable chief is critical, especially with upcoming elections looming. A decisive leader could unify factions and reinvigorate the party's base.

Uddeshya Thakur, Dhenkanal

Young blood

The author's analysis of the next BJP national president encompasses only selective political celebrities from the north and west. Nevertheless, in the view of experimenting new thoughts, both the RSS and BJP can opt for a young leader like K Annamalai of Tamil Nadu, Tejasvi Surya of Karnataka or Anil Antony of Kerala to inject a young new shot to BJP's organisational structure.

Venkat Desikan, Chennai

Women's harassment

Ref: *Break Bollywood's wall of silence* (Oct 6). From time immemorial, many men have been guilty of harassing women, not just in the cinema industry but in all spheres of society. Rape and harassment cases of girls as young as 10 months old are reported in the news daily. Even when such crimes are exposed, fast prosecution and stringent punishment is abysmally few.

R K Margabhandu, Kanchipuram

No support

The root cause for the silence in Bollywood is because there is no one to support the women in the industry. Some women have talked about it, but they had to flee the industry because they raised their voice towards this issue. In film industries the heroes are worshipped and respected larger than life, but they must take a heroic stand with their coworker.

Aditya Kamble, Kalaburagi

Alarming suggestion

Former US President Donald Trump's weird suggestion that Israel should hit nuclear sites in Iran is aimed at Jewish votes in the upcoming US presidential election. Winning by any means seems to be his agenda. Can the US trust Trump with the nuclear button if he gets elected?

C G Kuriakose, Kothamangalam

BJP's losses

Ref: *Pollsters predict BJP's Haryana exit* (Oct 6). The BJP central leadership seems to be clueless about their back-to-back losses. They don't seem to have learnt their lessons from the electoral debacles of the past. It remains to be seen what the return of the opposition in J&K will mean for the country's security scenario.

R Sriramprasad, email

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Kiren Rijiju @KirenRijiju
People who humiliated Dr BR Ambedkar, demolished basic structure of Indian Constitution and imposed emergency should not talk about Constitution and Babasaheb.

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
This FAST mentality of the non-biological PM – First Announce, Second Think – continues to spell danger to our institutions especially.

Ajit Pawar @AjitPawarSpeaks
Folk art, folk culture of tribal brothers should be preserved. Their customs and traditions are nature worshippers. The tribal community plays a significant role in nature conservation..!

PM, Muizzu likely to sign bilateral agreements today

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

MALDIVES President **Mohamad Muizzu** landed in Delhi on Sunday, beginning his three-day official visit to India. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called on him.

"Pleased to call on President Muizzu at the start of his visit to India. We appreciate the commitment to enhance India-Maldives relationship and are confident that his talks with PM Modi on Monday will give an impetus to our friendly ties," said Jaishankar on Sunday.

Muizzu's official engagements begin on Monday, when he will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He will also go to Bengaluru and Mumbai.

The Maldivian delegation includes a dozen ministers and senior officials who were received at the airport by Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh. Several agreements are likely to be signed on Monday when Muizzu meets Modi.

Ahead of his visit, Muizzu said he was optimistic that India would ease his country's financial burden. Maldives foreign exchange reserves have fallen to $440 million, which will last them for mere 45 days. India supported Maldives, which enabled it to avoid defaulting on Islamic Bond payments in September by extending the State Bank of India subscription to government treasury bills worth $50 million.

India has also offered financial support worth $1.4 billion for infrastructure development projects.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, Muizzu met the diaspora in Delhi.

India and Maldives had signed a trade agreement in 1981, which provides for export of essential commodities. Growing from modest beginnings, the bilateral trade crossed $300 million for the first time in 2021, which further crossed $500 million in 2022.

India-Bangla ties strong structurally: Jaishankar

EAM says UN is like an old company, behind times but occupying space

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

EAM Jaishankar addresses the 3rd Kautilya Economic Conclave in New Delhi | PTI

INDIA'S relationship with Bangladesh is structurally strong, said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday, speaking at the Kautilya Economic Conclave.

"When I was in New York, I met Bangladesh's advisor for foreign affairs. We had a discussion and the summary of it from their side was the stress on cooperation with India. On our side, we believe that structurally, our relationship is so strong. There could be political ups and downs but the structure can absorb all of that. Exactly how we are going to go forward with the relationship, needs to be worked out," Jaishankar said.

The minister explained that the main dialogues India has had with Bangladesh are the meeting in New York and the interaction of Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka with the current regime. He said it is too early to predict the course of those conversations.

Jaishankar also spoke about the expansion of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), considering that the next BRICS leaders' summit is set to take place in Russia's Kazan this month.

"We are looking at how we take the expansion further in the coming BRICS Summit. Many others want multiple options and want a larger spread in their relationships. That's the world we are moving to. It is not just the UN that is getting old, the global order is getting old," said Jaishankar.

He also spoke about the UN critically and how it has not been stepping up on key issues. "There are two serious conflicts going on in the world. Where is the UN on them, essentially a bystander. So, what you have today is, yes, there is a UN at the end of the day. However sub-optimal it is in functioning, it is still the only multilateral game in town, but when it does not step up on key issues, countries figure out their own ways of doing it," Jaishankar said.

"In a way, the UN is like an old company, not entirely keeping up with the market, but occupying the space. When it is behind times, in this world you have start-ups and innovations, different people start doing their own things," he added.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
The writer is Resident Editor TNIE, New Delhi.
Follow him on X@Shahid_Faridi_

BRICS Summit

DIGITAL CURRENCY, PAYMENT PLATFORM TOP AGENDA

When the leaders of the expanded BRICS meet at the Russian city of Kazan on October 22-24, the primary focus will be on establishing a payment settlement mechanism, ideally through creation of a unified BRICS digital currency. Sources said the countries of the group are likely to announce experimental use of digital currency within a year or two of the Kazan summit. The option of creating a platform to link the central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) of member countries is also likely to be discussed. The problem, however, is not all member countries have digital currencies. The grouping is, therefore, likely to start with bilateral payment settlement using CBDCs. BRICS countries are already settling payments among themselves in their national currencies. For example, almost 90% of payments between Russia and China are settled in yuan and rouble. Saudi Arabia, which is a new entrant into BRICS, has also entered into a deal with China to sell oil in yuan. India and Russia have, however, not been able to reach an agreement to trade in rupee and rouble. Russia wants to repatriate its earnings from oil and defence supplies to India. Though the two countries are working on getting this money invested in the Indian stock market and in large joint projects in India, a BRICS payment solution will help resolve the payment challenges facing the two countries.

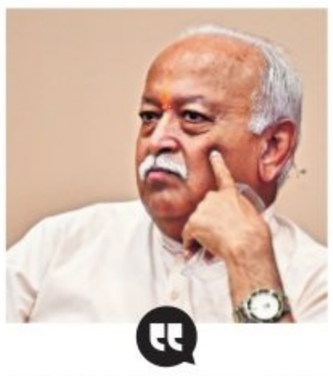
Jharkhand Polls

HEMANT'S PLAN TO FIGHT MORE SEATS RILES CONG

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren's decision to expand the influence of his party, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), has created ripples within the ruling alliance. Sources indicate that Hemant is striving for an independent majority for the JMM. To achieve this, he aims for his party to contest at least 50 of the 81 seats in the state, a move that would require reducing the share allocated to his allies. In the last assembly election, the JMM, Congress, and Lalu Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) collaborated, with the JMM contesting 43 seats, Congress 31, and RJD 7. This alliance proved successful, with the JMM winning 30 seats, Congress securing 16, and RJD capturing one. Sources suggest that Hemant believes the current disarray within the state BJP, coupled with the sympathy generated by his arrest among tribal communities, has created a favorable wave for the JMM. He feels confident that, given the present political landscape, the JMM could secure victory on its own. According to sources, Hemant plans to allocate no more than 25 seats to Congress, three to the RJD, and one to CPI(ML), reserving 52 seats for himself. On learning about Hemant's plan, the Congress has hardened its stance on alliance. The party's state in-charge Ghulam Ahmad Mir announced that if his party improves its numbers in the next election, it may demand rotational chief ministership in the state. The JMM responded to the suggestion by threatening to go it alone if Hemant's leadership of the alliance was questioned. As the election approaches, tension between the allies is set to rise.

Bhagwat: India a Hindu nation, must unite beyond castes and languages

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi



Bharat is a Hindu-Rashtra. We have been living here since ancient times, although the word 'Hindu' came later. Hindu society should unite for the nation and for its own safety

Mohan Bhagwat, RSS chief

RASHTRIYA Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat has reaffirmed his stance that Bharat is a 'Hindu-Rashtra' and urged Hindus to unite beyond caste, creed, and language differences. His remarks came at 'Swayamsevak Ekatrikaran' event in Baran, Rajasthan on Saturday. He also urged Hindus to unite beyond caste, creed, and language, emphasizing that the Hindu community bears the primary responsibility for advancing the nation.

"Bharat is a Hindu-Rashtra. We have been living here since ancient times, although the word 'Hindu' came later," Bhagwat said, adding Hindus should unite for the nation and for their own safety.

"We are the sons and daughters of Mother India; we will live and die for her," he said, calling for greater Hindu solidarity. He described the Hindu society as integral to nation-building, advocating discipline, duty to the state, and dedication to common goals.

He said the RSS operates on ideological foundations rather than a mechanical structure, aiming to inspire volunteers and their families to engage with society positively.

He highlighted the importance of social harmony, justice, health, education, and self-reliance, urging volunteers to engage in community improvement. Bhagwat noted that India's global standing is linked to its strength, and emphasized that the safety of expatriates depends on a robust nation.

He called for fostering harmony, environmental awareness, indigenous values, and civic consciousness as essential elements of society.

Dwelling on the Hindu society, Bhagwat emphasized that everyone should inculcate discipline in their conduct, duty towards the state and dedication to goals. Bhagwat said: "Individuals and their families alone do not form a society, but by considering comprehensive concerns that help in attaining spiritual fulfillment."

Dispelling many misnomers about the Sangh, he said "The functioning of the RSS is not mechanical, but idea-based. It is an unparalleled organization whose values trickle down from the group leaders to the volunteers, their families and to the society at large. To know it, one has to come with us at their free will". The RSS chief urged the Sangh volunteers to develop widespread contact within communities and work to mitigate community deficiencies by empowering society.

"Now is the time to focus on social harmony, justice, health, education and self-reliance. The volunteers should always foster harmony, environmental awareness, indigenous values, and civic consciousness," he said.

Highlighting Bharat's growing global influence and acceptance, Bhagwat said India's prestige in the world depends on the country's strength. He said India's global reputation and standing is attributed to its strength and the safety of its expatriates is assured only when their nation becomes strong.

Cong poser: Why do BJP MPs object to Buch's appearance before PAC?

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

A political war of words broke out on Sunday between the ruling BJP and the Congress after the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) decided to summon SEBI chairperson **Madhabi Puri Buch** and TRAI officials on October 24.

Responding to PAC member and BJP MP Nishikant Dubey's allegations that the panel's chairman and Congress MP KC Venugopal is trying to destabilise the country's financial structure and economy, Congress said it indicates the government's complicity in the contentious issue.

Hinderburg Research, a US-based short-shelling firm, had first levelled the allegation of conflict of interest against Buch. Congress has launched a scathing attack on the regulatory body, citing the payments made to Buch by her former employer ICICI Bank, after she became a whole-time member of SEBI, and sought an independent probe into the matter.

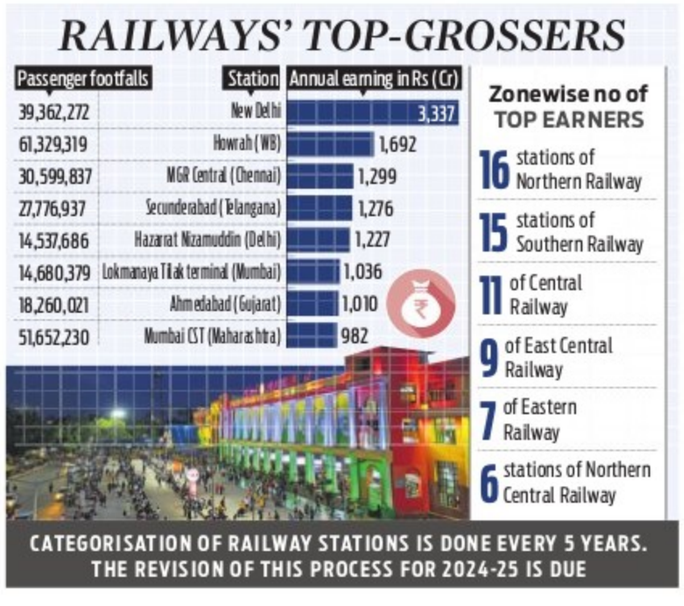
Attacking the government, Congress leader Pawan Khera asked who it is saving by trying to protect Buch. "It is now a clear indication that the government is complicit. Who are they saving by trying to protect Madhabi Buch?" Khera posted on X.

Echoing the view, Praveen Chakravarty, chairman of Professionals' Congress and Data Analytics, sought to know why a BJP MP objected to her appearance before a Parliament committee. "Every time there is something about Madhabi Buch or her family, intriguingly, BJP MPs and ministers come to her defence. If Buch is innocent as she claims, why can't she defend herself with the PAC?" he wrote on X.

The PAC, which met on October 4, has finalised its agenda for October 24 as: Briefing by Audit followed by Oral evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) and Securities and SEBI on the subject 'Performance Review of Regulatory Bodies established by Act of Parliament'.

New Delhi railway station tops in annual earning

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi


RAILWAYS' TOP-GROSSERS
Passenger footfalls
Station
Annual earning in Rs (Cr)
39,362,272 New Delhi 3,337
61,329,319 Howrah (WB) 1,692
30,599,837 MGR Central (Chennai) 1,299
27,776,937 Secunderabad (Telangana) 1,276
14,537,686 Hazarat Nizamuddin (Delhi) 1,227
14,680,379 Lokmanaya Tilak terminal (Mumbai) 1,036
18,260,021 Ahmedabad (Gujarat) 1,010
51,652,230 Mumbai CST (Maharashtra) 982
Zonewise no of TOP EARNERS
16 stations of Northern Railway
15 stations of Southern Railway
11 of Central Railway
9 of East Central Railway
7 of Eastern Railway
6 stations of Northern Central Railway
CATEGORISATION OF RAILWAY STATIONS IS DONE EVERY 5 YEARS. THE REVISION OF THIS PROCESS FOR 2024-25 IS DUE

NEW Delhi Railway Station, designated to be developed as a world-class station, has retained its top position among the country's 100 most earning and busiest railway stations for the financial year 2023-24, according to data released by the Railways.

West Bengal's Howrah station stands second and Chennai's MGR Central third. These three railway stations among the top 100 have set examples in annual earnings and passenger footfalls together.

New Delhi Railway Station earned more than ₹3,337 crore with 39,362,272 passengers in 2023-24, followed by Howrah with over ₹1,692 crore earning and 61,329,319 footfalls and MGR Central in Chennai with a revenue of ₹1,299 crore from 30,599,837 passengers.

Other railway stations, all categorised as NSG-1 (Non-Suburban Grade-I), which followed the above three are Secunderabad, generating an annual earning of ₹12,76 crore from 27,776,937 passengers, Hazrat Nizamuddin with ₹1,227 crore revenue from 14,537,686 passengers, Lokmanaya Tilak terminal in Mumbai with ₹1,036 crore from 14,680,379 passengers, Ahmedabad with ₹1,010 crore from 18,260,021 passengers and Mumbai CST with ₹9,82 crore from 51,652,230 passengers, according to the data.

In addition to these NGS-1 stations, Pune railway station in Maharashtra and Anand Vihar in Delhi also have figured among 100 top earning stations. Pune registered an annul earning of ₹9,76 crore from the footfall of 22,256,812 passengers and Anand Vihar recorded ₹8,44 crore from 12,235,275 passengers.

According to the official assessment of earnings by the railways, 22 stations of NSG-1 are among 100 top in terms od revenue generation. According to data, 16 stations of Northern Railway are among 100 top earning stations followed by 15 stations of Southern Railway, 11 of Central Railway, nine of East Central Railway, seven of Eastern Railway, and six of Northern Central Railway.

According to railway officials, the categorisation of railway stations is done every five years and the revision of this process for 2024-25 is due.

Other stations in Maharashtra which have figured on the top 100 list after Pune are Nagpur, Kalyan and Thane. Surat railway station, which connects the Gujarat's commercial city with other parts of the country dealing with trading of diamond and textile, has also figures among 100 top earning stations generating an annual revenue of ₹8,35 crore followed by KSR Bengaluru with an earning of ₹8,03 crore, Patna Junction in Bihar with revenue of ₹6,99 crore and Jaipur with revenue of ₹6,98 crore.

Muslim body to present views in next meet of JPC on Waqf Bill on Oct 14-15

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

A two-day meeting of the Joint Committee of Parliament (JPC) will be held from October 14 to scrutinise the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024.

During the meeting, the committee will hear the suggestions of the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, Delhi. It will also hear the views of lawyers Vishnu Shankar Jain, Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay and Virendra Ichalkaranjikar on the Bill. On October 15, representatives of the Ministry of Minority Affairs will record their oral evidence before the committee on the matter. The meeting follows Home Minister Amit Shah's assertion that the Centre will pass the Waqf Bill in the upcoming Parliament session.

Recently, a controversy broke out after the JPC received 1.25 crore submissions from various stakeholders. BJP MP Nishikant Dubey had sought a probe into the possible role of Pakistan's ISI and China behind the massive response. He also alleged that the influence of a radical Islamist preacher, Zakir Naik, cannot be ruled out. However, the Opposition parties called it a "mockery of democracy" and said that the BJP was unnerved over the massive feedback.

The Jagadambika Pal-led committee has been tasked by the Lok Sabha to scrutinise the Bill, which has drawn protests from the Opposition parties and Muslim organisations.

From giving the Centre the power to frame rules to providing representation for women to the inclusion of two non-Muslim members in Waqf boards and a separate Board of Auqaf for Boharas and Aghakhanis, the government has proposed 44 amendments to the Waqf Act 1995.

The JPC had recently held informal discussions with various stakeholders across five states, including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu to refine the proposed changes to the Waqf Act. These consultations were aimed at refining the proposed amendments to the Act, which governs the management of over 6,00,000 registered Waqf properties across the country.

However, the meetings in most cities, including Mumbai, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad, witnessed heated debates. The Waqf Bill was introduced during the budget session of Parliament amid staunch opposition from the INDIA bloc parties. The government has stated that the amendments are necessary to streamline the functioning of Waqf properties and ensure better governance.

Panel's itinerary

During the meeting, the committee will hear the suggestions of the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, Delhi. It will also hear the views of lawyers Vishnu Shankar Jain, Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay and Virendra Ichalkaranjikar on the Bill. On October 15, representatives of the Ministry of Minority Affairs will record their oral evidence before the committee in the matter.

MEAT BAN

Sale and consumption of meat and liquor will be strictly prohibited within the periphery of Maha Kumbh Mela area, CM Yogi Adityanath said. He said it is necessary to impose the ban in view of the sentiments of the Sanatan society

5 KILLED AS DUMPER RAMS BIKES IN RAJASTHAN'S DAUSA

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	33	25	Mumbai	34	27
Bhopal	33	22	Panaji	33	24
Jaipur	34	24	Patna	33	27
Amritsar	29	22	Lucknow	31	25
Chennai	33	27	Port Blair	34	28
Kolkata	30	26	Imphal	29	26
Srinagar	24	13	Chandigarh	32	22

• Haryana CM unfazed despite exit polls showing Cong win • J&K political parties cry foul over legal provision

Saini rejects exit polls, says BJP will form govt alone

> The BJP will form the government on the basis of works done in the state. Exit polls have their own theory and system, but we work on the ground
>
> Nayab Singh Saini, Chief Minister

Turnout at 67.9%

The Haryana polls saw a voter turnout of 67.9%, with several exit polls predicting majority for Congress. The turnout was less compared to 68.2% recorded in 2019 polls. Urban areas saw lower voter turnout

HARPREET BAJWA @ Harpreet Bajwa

Haryana Chief Minister **Nayab Singh Saini** on Sunday rejected exit poll predictions claiming the BJP will form the government in the state with full majority for a third time after the results are announced on October 8. "Congress will blame the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for its defeat," he said.

Overall, Haryana witnessed 67.90% voting in the assembly elections, with a lower voter turnout in the urban areas. The polling was lower compared to 68.2% in previous assembly polls.

To a question about the exit polls predicting a Congress win, Saini said on October 8, the BJP was going to form the government. "They forecast a Congress victory in Chhattisgarh and showed the party ahead in Uttarakhand as well. The exit polls have their own theory and system, but we work on the ground. The people of Haryana want BJP to come to power for a third time." Asked how many seats the BJP will win in the 90-strong assembly, Saini said, "I have said we will form the government with full majority. The BJP will form the government on the basis of works done in the state," he added.

The Haryana assembly elections on Saturday saw a turnout of 67.90% , with several exit polls predicting a clear majority for the Congress, which is eyeing a comeback after a decade.

The turnout was less compared to 68.2% recorded in the 2019 Assembly election. Besides, there was a lower voter turnout in the urban areas than in rural counterparts.

Haryana Chief Electoral Officer Pankaj Agarwal said 67.90% voting took place for the assembly polls. The highest 75.36% voting was recorded in Sirsa district and the lowest 56.49% was recorded in Faridabad district.

The polling percentage in Gurugram district was 57.96%, 67.62% in Ambala while 65.23% voting was recorded in Panchkula, 65.67% in Karnal, 68.80% in Panipat and 66.08% in Sonipat.

On the other hand, 74.77% voting took place in Fatehabad, Palwal saw 73.89%, Mewat 72.81%, and Hisar recorded 70.58%.

DECIDE

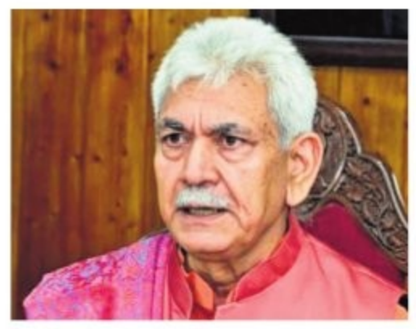
5 nominations by L-G may tilt scales in govt formation

> In a democratic setup, the elected government must have authority to make these nominations. The LG does not have the constitutional right to take such decisions
>
> Rattan Lal Gupta, NC provincial chief

Strength up to 95

After the nomination of five members by the Lt Governor, the J&K Assembly strength will rise to 95 members. The majority figure will be 48. Any party or alliance will have to secure 48 votes to form the first government in J&K UT

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar



THE nomination of five members to the Assembly with voting rights by Lt Governor **Manoj Sinha** would hold the key to government information in Jammu and Kashmir in case of a hung Assembly. As per the J&K Reorganisation Act 2019, the Lieutenant Governor may nominate two members to the Assembly to give representation to women if they are not adequately represented in the Assembly.

As per the July 2013 amendment to the Act, Lt Governor was empowered to nominate three more members to the Assembly, including two migrant Kashmiri Pandits, one of them has to be a woman, and another from displaced persons from PoK.

According to legal experts, all five members nominated by Lt Governor, as is the case with the Puducherry Assembly, can have voting rights and participate in a vote of confidence.

After the nomination of five members by the Lt Governor, the J&K Assembly strength will rise to 95 members. The majority figure will be 48. Any party or alliance will have to secure 48 votes to form the first government in J&K UT post Article 370 abrogation. The Lt Governor can nominate members to the Assembly after conclusion of the vote count on October 8. It is his discretion whom he nominates as member of the Assembly.

Political parties are apprehensive that the situation can give an edge to the BJP as the party is set to get support of the five members nominated by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, who himself is a BJP leader.

Congress spokesman Ravindra Sharma said although the Congress-NC alliance would get a complete majority, the move to nominate five MLAs before government formation by Lt Governor is anti-democratic and a betrayal with public mandate.

NC provincial chief, Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta voiced strong objections against the provision to nominate five MLAs. "In a democratic setup, the elected government must have the authority to make these nominations. The LG does not have the constitutional right to take such decisions," he said.

RANCHI DIARY

MUKESH RANJAN
Our correspondent in Jharkhand
mukesh.r@newindianexpress.com

Cong begins 'Jan Samvad Abhiyan'

To counter BJP's 'Parivartan Yatra', Jharkhand Congress, a part of the ruling coalition (with JMM and RJD), started 'Jan Samvad Abhiyan" on Friday in Ranchi and Bokaro. Party's senior leaders have been entrusted for all the five divisions of the state — Kolhan, Santhal Pargana, North Chhotanagpur, South Chhotanagpur and Palamu. The 'Jan Samvad Abhiyan,' which aims to listen to both grievances and suggestions of the common masses, would be held in several phases. In the first phase, 33 assembly constituencies will be covered, wherein senior party leaders will camp in the divisions and hold meeting with general masses.

Residential schools for labourers' children

With an intention to provide free education to the children of labourers, the state government plans to establish labour residential schools in all 24 districts of Jharkhand. The initiative was revealed by CM Hemant Soren recently during the 'Jharkhand Skill Conclave' held in Dhanbad. He said the training programs initiated by the Labour Department have empowered state's youth with skills that makes them eligible for jobs in multinational companies. Highlighting his government's efforts, he expressed his dedication to ensure jobs to the skilled youth.

Lone NCP legislator joins BJP amid opposition

Despite opposition from the BJP cadres, lone NCP legislator from Hussainabad, Kamlesh Singh, joined BJP on Friday. He took party membership in presence of BJP's election co-in-charge Hemant Biswa Sarma at the state party headquarters in Ranchi. There was continuous opposition by local BJP leaders of Hussainabad, from where Kamlesh Singh belongs to, before his joining the party. The seven Mandal presidents had demanded earlier that Kamlesh should not be inducted into the BJP. They alleged that in the last five years, he had sent many BJP workers to jail in Hussainabad assembly constituency by implicating them in false cases.

12 Bihar children drown while bathing in rivers

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

ATLEAST 12 children drowned while bathing in rivers in two separate incidents in Bihar on Sunday. While one of the victims swam to safety, two others were still missing.

In the first incident, eight children drowned while taking a bath in Sone river in Rohtas district. The incident took place at Tumba village when the victims belonging to a family had gone to the Sone river for taking a bath.

One of the victims slipped into deep water while the river has been in spate. Other children, including three girls, also jumped into the water to save him. In the process, seven of them drowned one after another. However, one of them later swam to safety.

District Magistrate, Rohtas, Udita Singh said that the victims belonged to the family of Krishna Gaur. They all were in the age group of 8 to 13 years. Gaur's daughter had come to the village from Ranchi. "Driver have been pressed into service to fish out the bodies," she added.

In another incident, four girls drowned while taking a bath near Sameli railway halt under Kursela police station in Katihar district.

Gang rape & murder of schoolgirl: HC orders second post-mortem

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

THE Calcutta High Court on Sunday ordered that a second post-mortem be conducted on the schoolgirl who was allegedly gang-raped and murdered in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district.

Justice Tirthankar Ghosh, hearing a petition filed by the girl's parents, directed that the second post-mortem be conducted at AIIMS Hospital in Kalyani on Monday in the presence of the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) of Baruipur court.

Justice Ghosh also ordered that police register a case under the POCSO Act. If AIIMS Kalyani lacks the necessary infrastructure to conduct the post-mortem, it should be carried out at Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Hospital, also located in Kalyani, the court said. However, the post-mortem must be done by doctors from Kalyani AIIMS, not those from the state-run hospital, it added.

The 10-year-old girl was returning to her Joynagar home after attending her tuition classes on Saturday when the incident took place. The body of the schoolgirl is currently kept at Kantapukur morgue, where the first post-mortem was performed. One person has been arrested in connection with the murder.

Later in the evening, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, while inaugurating a puja of Kolkata Police barracks, said, "Whoever does crime strict action will be taken. In Bengal capital punishment has been given in 3 cases. I believe in Kultali , Joynagar in South 24 Parganas, police will take the case to POCSO court and will give punishment."

After the body of the girl was discovered in marshy land on Saturday, local residents set fire to Mahismari police outpost and pelted stones at policemen. They also vandalised several vehicles parked outside the outpost, forcing the policemen to leave the premises.

Villagers and accused the police of failing to act on their complaint promptly. Police denied the charge, saying soon after the FIR was registered, one suspect was arrested.

Junior doctors on relay hunger stir for justice to RG Kar victim

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @ Kolkata

Junior doctors sit on fast to protest alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor | PTI

AGITATING junior doctors continued their hunger strike until death on Sunday in Dharmatala area of Kolkata, demanding justice for the woman medic raped and murdered at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, and workplace safety. Several senior doctors, who have been at the protest site since Saturday night, are also planning to join their junior counterparts in the hunger strike.

"The support of these people gives us the courage, the enthusiasm to continue our protest against the gruesome murder of our sister. We are happy to see that people have not forgotten that justice is yet not given and attacks on doctors are still on and the state government has no serious note of our demands," said Debasish Halder, one of the agitating doctors.

The six doctors sitting on relay fast were Snigdha Hazra, Tanaya Panja and Anustup Mukhopadhyay of Kolkata Medical College and Hospital, SSKM Hospital's Arnab Mukhopadhyay, Pulastha Acharya of NRS Medical College and Hospital, and Sayantani Ghosh Hazra of KPC Medical College. The junior medics started their hunger strike untill death on Saturday night after the state government missed the 24-hour deadline of fulfilling their demands by 8.30 pm on Saturday.

They had on Friday begun a sit-in demonstration at the Dorina crossing in Dharmtatala area following an alleged assault by Kolkata Police personnel.

To maintain transparency, the junior medics have installed CCTV cameras at the dais where their colleagues are holding the strike. The state would be held responsible if any doctor fell ill during the fast, the junior doctors said.

A large number of common people gathered at the protest site and a few celebrities also joined them at the protest site since Saturday night.

On Friday, the junior doctors had called off their 'total cease work', which had crippled healthcare services at state-run medical colleges and hospitals. The protesting doctors emphasised that securing justice for the deceased woman medic remains their foremost priority. Among the other nine demands, they called for the immediate removal of Health Secretary NS Nigam, as well as accountability for the alleged administrative incompetence and corruption in the health department.

Other demands include establishment of a centralised referral system for all hospitals and medical colleges in the state, implementation of a bed vacancy monitoring system, and formation of task forces to ensure essential provisions for CCTV, on-call rooms, and washrooms at their workplaces.

IAF-SDRF op saves 2 foreign women mountaineers

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

Michelle Theresa Dvorak and Fav Jane Manners with the rescue team| EXPRESS

THE Indian Air Force (IAF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) on Sunday jointly rescued two foreign women mountaineers stranded at 6,015 metres en route to Chaukhamba III Peak in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district.

According to government sources, American Michelle Theresa Dvorak and British Fav Jane Manners embarked on a climbing expedition to Chaukhamba peak from Delhi on September 11.

"We received information through the Indian Mountaineering Federation that the two women foreigners are stranded at an altitude of 6,015 metres on Chaukhamba-III peak (6,995 metres)," a district administration official said.

The stranded mountaineers sent a distress signal via pager to their respective embassies on Thursday. "We are stuck, and our equipment, including food and essential climbing gear, has fallen into the deep gorge," they alerted.

"Two missing women mountaineers were contacted by a French expedition team, after which the Air Force successfully evacuated and brought them safely to Joshimath," an administrative source said. "The swift response of the Indian Air Force ensured the safe rescue of the stranded mountaineers," the source added.

The IAF deployed two Cheetah helicopters from Sarsawa Air Base to Joshimath on Friday morning to rescue the stranded mountaineers.

"We attempted to locate the climbers using coordinates provided by the air force, but could not establish any contact," an official said. After aerial operations failed to yield results, authorities activated 'Plan B'. Disaster Management Secretary Vinod Kumar Suman, SDRF IG Riddhim Aggarwal, and USDMA CEO Operations DIG Rajkumar Negi collaborated on a land-based operation.

An SDRF team was dispatched to the Advance Base Camp on Saturday. "The rescue team successfully located and evacuated the stranded mountaineers on late Saturday night, but logistical constraints delayed their transport to Joshimath until Sunday morning," the officials said.

"The IAF and SDRF's joint search and rescue operation was successful due to our team's expertise in high-altitude rescue operations," said SDRF Commandant Arpan Yaduvanshi.

Yaduvanshi told this newspaper, "A team of 11 experts was deployed for this mission. The incident site was at 6,200 metres, and our team operated from an advance base camp at 4,900 meters."

"SDRF teams worked with complete dedication and promptness in extremely challenging conditions," said Riddhim Agarwal, Inspector General of Police, SDRF.

A heroic rescue

Two women foreign mountaineers embarked on a climbing expedition to Chaukhamba peak on September 11. When the two reached an altitude of 6,015 metres, they found themselves stranded and sent a distress signal via pager to their respective embassies on Thursday. The IAF and SDRF were then pressed into service who rescued the two on Sunday morning

To curb child marriages, Assam offers financial incentives for girl education

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

TAKING its war against child marriage to a 'decisive phase', the Assam government on Sunday implemented "Nijut Moina", a scheme encouraging girl students to pursue higher studies.

Under the scheme, all girl students from Class 11 to postgraduate level will be provided with monthly stipends. The stipends are ₹1,000 for students of Classes 11 and 12, ₹1,250 for degree students and ₹2,500 for students pursing postgraduation.

The stipends, however, come with two riders – the students will have to attend their classes regularly, be disciplined and fare well in exams, and secondly, they cannot get married until post-graduation.

The daughters of ministers, MPs and MLAs will not be eligible for the stipends. The first instalment was disbursed on Sunday. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the state government was working towards eradicating child marriage by 2026.

"On Navratri, our war against child marriage has entered into a decisive phase as we began disbursing monthly financial assistance under #NijutMoina. On the 11th (day) of every month, Assam's daughters will receive a fixed payments to be in college," Sarma posted on X.

He was hopeful that the scheme, launched on August 8, would be a game-changer in the fight against child marriage.

"Nijut Moina is unique as it incentivises positive social outcomes, funds higher education, reduces family expenses and bars child marriage by encouraging girls to remain in college. The scheme aims to cover 10 lakh girl students with an outlay of ~ 1,500 crore," Sarma said. He said overwhelming evidence of past efforts steered the government to take this initiative.

COP WINS INTERNATIONAL POLICE AWARD

Guwahati: The US-based International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has selected dentist-turned-policewoman Pritpal Kaur as a 2024 IACP 40 Under 40 awardee. The 39-year-old, a native of Haryana who is serving as the superintendent of police of Phek in Nagaland, is among 40 police officers selected from around the world for the award and is the lone winner from India this year. Kaur is a 2016 batch IPS officer. She treats patients with dental problems, counsels drug users, helps youth prepare for competitive exams, works with school dropouts, facilitates training and procurement of tools for farmers and educates rural women on female hygiene.

50 times
A 15-yr-old boy was stabbed, burned alive in southern French city of Marseille in drug-related killing

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	21	9	SNY	Los Angeles	31	16	SNY
Colombo	31	26	LR	Melbourne	14	4	SNY
Dhaka	32	26	LR	Moscow	16	11	LR
Dubai	36	30	SNY	New York	23	11	LR
Houston	34	22	SNY	Singapore	31	26	LR
Istanbul	24	16	SNY	Toronto	16	8	SNY
London	18	13	LC	Washington	22	14	SNY

Flights at Iran airports suspended: report

Aviation body says grounding being done for 'operational' reasons; Europe asks carriers not to fly there till Oct-end

People react as they attend an event with members of the UK Jewish community in Hyde Park, central London on Sunday to mark the one-year anniversary of the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas in Israel | AFP

TEHRAN /LONDON

IRAN'S aviation body on Sunday announced the cancellation of flights at some of the country's airports, citing "operational restrictions", state media reported as Israel vows to retaliate for an Iranian missile strike.

Because of those restrictions, "the flights at some airports of the country will be cancelled from 21:00 tonight, Sunday, October 6, until 6 am tomorrow, October 7," according to *IRNA* state news agency citing Iran's Civil Aviation Organisation spokesman, Jafar Yazarloo.

Iran on Tuesday launched around 200 missiles in its second direct attack on Israel, in what it said was retaliation for the killing of Tehran-aligned militant leaders in the region, along with a general in Iran's Revolutionary Guards.Ever since, Israel has said that it will respond to Iran's attack. On Tuesday night, Iran closed its airspace for less than two days until Thursday morning. The aviation body announced then that both domestic and international flights were grounded for security reasons until the reopening.

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency has advised European airlines to avoid Iranian airspace until October 31, with the situation under ongoing review.

Meanwhile, thousands gathered in London on Sunday at a memorial for the victims of last year's October 7 Hamas attack against Israel, as the ensuing war in Gaza enters its second year. Attendees waved Israeli flags and "bring them home" placards with the faces of hostages still held by Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip at the commemoration in Hyde Park in central London.

Photos of those who were killed on October 7 were shown on a big screen as attendees lit candles in their honour.

The event was organised by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Jewish Leadership Council and other groups in collaboration with the Israeli embassy in London. "Today's event is for one purpose only: it is a memorial. We want to remember the people who have been brutally murdered and we want the world to remember," Henry Grunwald, chair of the organising committee said.

Mandy Damari, whose daughter Emily was one of the 251 people taken hostage by Hamas, said her daughter was "full of life". Speaking at the memorial, Damari said "one year has passed and she is still in hell. How is it she is still in prison?"

"I need to hug her again and I need to see her smile", Damari added, on the verge of tears.

Two other rallies, one in Manchester and one in Leeds, were also set to take place on Sunday. *AFP*

Shooting attack at Israeli bus station leaves 1 dead

BEERSHEBA

ISRAELI police on Sunday said a female border officer was killed in a shooting attack on a bus station that first responders say injured 10 others. The incident took place a day before the first anniversary of the October 7 Hamas attack.

"Paramedics have pronounced a 25-year-old female deceased, and are evacuating 10 casualties," emergency service provider Magen David Adom said in a statement.

Police identified the victim as Sergeant Shira Haya Suslik, a member of the border police, and said she "fell during an encounter with a terrorist in an attack that occurred today at the central bus station in Beersheba."

Police said the incident was being treated as a "suspected terrorist attack". "A number of injured on the scene. The terrorist was neutralised at the scene and many police forces of the southern district are at the scene," said a police spokesman in a statement. Hamas praised the "heroic" attack, saying it "came in defence of our people, our land, and our holy sites".

The incident comes just days after a Hamas-claimed shooting attack last week in which seven people were killed in Israel's commercial hub of Tel Aviv.

The Tel Aviv attack – one of the deadliest in the country since the October 7 Hamas attack – came as Iran fired about 200 missiles at Israel, sending hundreds of thousands of people into public shelters. Israel and Hamas have been at war in Gaza since the Oct 7 attack on Israel that resulted in the deaths of 1,205 people. *AFP*

WAR WATCH
ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 366

TOLL SO FAR
43,706

Palestinians carry an injured man following an Israeli airstrike in Deir al-Balah, on Sunday | AP

Elon Musk shows up at Trump rally, casts US election in dire terms

BUTLER

BILLIONAIRE tech executive Elon Musk cast the upcoming presidential election in dire terms during an appearance with Donald Trump, calling the Republican presidential nominee the only candidate "to preserve democracy in America."

Musk joined Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania, on Saturday at the site where the former president survived an assassination attempt in July. Musk said "this will be the last election" if Trump doesn't win. Wearing a cap with the "Make America Great Again" slogan of Trump's campaign, Musk appeared to acknowledge the foreboding nature of his remarks.

"As you can see I am not just MAGA — I am Dark MAGA," he said. It was the first time that Musk joined one of Trump's rallies and was evidence of their growing alliance in the final stretch of the presidential election. Musk created a super political action committee supporting the Republican nominee and it has been spending heavily on get-out-the-vote efforts. Trump has said he would tap Musk to lead a government efficiency commission if he regains the White House.

Trump joined Musk in August for a rare public conversation on X, a friendly chat that spanned more than two hours. In it, the former president largely focused on the July assassination attempt, illegal immigration and his plans to cut government regulations.

Before a large crowd Saturday, Musk sought to portray Trump as a champion of free speech, arguing that Democrats want "to take away your freedom of speech, they want to take away your right to bear arms, they want to take away your right to vote, effectively." Musk went on to criticise a California effort to ban voter ID requirements.

The event took place at the same property where a gunman's bullets grazed Trump's right ear and killed a Trump supporter, Corey Comperatore. The shooting left multiple others injured. Several members of Comperatore's family, other attendees and first responders from the July rally, returned to the site on Saturday. *AP*

Elon Musk speaks as Donald Trump listens at a campaign event on Saturday at Pennsylvania at the site where the former president survived an assassination attempt in July | AP

B'desh imposes travel ban to hills as sectarian violence claims five lives

DHAKA

BANGLADESH on Sunday imposed a travel ban on three southeastern hill districts amid sectarian tensions between local ethnic minority communities and Bengali settlers in the region, which has left five people dead and several injured.

The deputy commissioners of the three districts, bordering India and Myanmar, in separate but similar statements, requested tourists not to visit the region, called Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT), from Oct 8-31, citing "unavoidable grounds".

CHT is the abode of over a dozen, mostly Buddhist majority, ethnic minority groups, while the ban came days after the monks scrapped their scheduled *Kaathin Chibor Dan* or 'offering of yellow robes to monks' festival, citing security reasons. The festival was scheduled to be held in mid-October.

The authorities previously discouraged travel to Sajek Valley, one of the most sought-after tourist destinations in Bangladesh, for an indefinite period amid sectarian tensions between indigenous hill communities and the Bengali migrants.

The sectarian violence, which erupted last month after a Bengali youth was beaten to death by a mob over a motorcycle theft incident in Khagrachhari district, claimed four lives.

The ethnic minority or tribal groups enforced a temporary blockade in the three hill districts while authorities ordered an extra vigil by army troops and police and enforced a ban on rallies.

The unrest prompted the interim government of Muhammad Yunus to issue a stern warning against any attempt to instigate violence in the region, which experienced a two-decade insurgency before a peace deal was inked in 1997.

His three senior advisers, equivalent to ministers, visited the region and met leaders of the feuding communities at Rangamati Cantonment.

Their meeting decided to form a committee to investigate the recent incidents of violence in Rangamati and Khagrachari districts.

"There is an external conspiracy attempting to destroy our harmony," Hasan Arif, one of the advisers, said. The proposed committee would uncover those involved to be exposed to justice or dealt with accordingly, he added.

The peace agreement had ended the insurgency. However, sporadic unrest continues. *PTI*

Rescuers search for missing people in the village of Donja Jablanica | AP

International rescue teams arrive in Bosnia after rainstorm

SARAJEVO

RESCUE teams from Bosnia's neighbours and EU countries on Sunday were joining efforts to clear the rubble and find people still missing from floods and landslides that devastated parts of the Balkan country.

Bosnia sought EU help after a heavy rainstorm overnight on Friday left entire areas under water and debris destroyed roads and bridges, killing at least 18 people and wounding dozens. "Our hearts and thoughts are with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, hit by devastating floods," EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on X.

"We have activated our EU Civil Protection Mechanism and are sending rescue teams on the ground. This is EU solidarity in action."

Officials said that at least 10 people are still unaccounted for, many of them in the village of Donja Jablanica, in southern Bosnia, which was almost completely buried in rocks and rubble from a quarry on a hill above. Residents there have said they heard a thundering rumble and saw houses disappear before their eyes. "We heard water and rock coming down from the hill. I told my son, Let's go up to the attic, we don't know what's going to happen," recalled Munevera Dautbegovic. "In the morning when we got out, we saw large amount of sand around."

Regional Gov. Nermin Niksic visited the village on Sunday, promising help to rebuild. *AP*

RUSSIA STRIKES UKRAINE WITH SHAHED DRONES, FOUR DIFFERENT MISSILES

KYIV

RUSSIAN forces attacked Ukraine overnight with 87 Shahed drones and four different types of missiles, officials said on Sunday.

A 49-year-old man was killed in the Kharkiv region after his car was hit by a drone, said regional Gov Oleh Syniehubov. A gas pipeline was also damaged and a warehouse set alight in the city of Odesa, Ukrainian officials reported.

Ukraine's air force said in a statement that air defences had destroyed 56 of the 87 drones and two missiles over 14 Ukrainian regions, including the capital, Kyiv.

Another 25 drones disappeared from radar "presumably as a result of anti-aircraft missile defense," it said. The barrage comes a day after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that he will present his "victory plan" at the Oct 12 meeting of the Ramstein group of nations that supplies arms to Ukraine.

Zelenskyy presented his plan to US President Joe Biden in Washington last week. Its contents have not been made public but it is known that the plan includes Ukrainian membership in NATO and the provision of long-range missiles to strike inside Russia.

In a statement on Sunday, the Ukrainian leader paid tribute to the country's troops, which he also described as "preparing (for) the next Ramstein."

"They demonstrate what Ukrainians are capable of when they have enough weapons and sufficient range," he said in a statement on social media.

Meanwhile, Russia's Ministry of Defense said Sunday that it had shot down four Ukrainian drones. *AP*

PUBLIC NOTICE

I hereby inform to the General public that my client bank namely **THE JANATHA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.,** H.O. 17th Cross, 8th Main, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560055, Wherein the said Smt. Bhagyamma @ Bhagya W/o G. Raju approached the bank for financial assistance against the schedule property mentioned below claiming that, she is the absolute owner having acquired the same through the registered Release Deed dated 22/6/2022 executed by Smt. Prabhavathi and Smt. Rajeshwari in favour of Smt. Bhagyamma @ Bhagya W/o G. Raju. Vide No. RJN-1-02532-2022-23, CD No. RJND1186 in the office of the sub Registrar, Bangalore and willing to offer the said property and agreed to execute DTD in favour of the bank if anybody having any manner of claim, charge, over the below mentioned schedule property, they may file their objections to the under signed or to the bank within 07 days from this day and any objections received thereafter shall not be taken in to consideration and the bank will proceed further, as if there are no other claims or objections.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the House property formed in Sy.No. 65/2 of Kamakshipalya, Saneguravanahalli Dakale, Yeshwanthapura Hobli bearing Municipal No.71, PID No. 36-106-71, 2nd Main Road, Kaveripura, Bangalore, now comes under the limits of BBMP, Ward No. 103, Kaveripura, Bangalore.

MEASUREMENT : East to West : 15-0 ft. North to South : 40-0 ft.

BOUNDED ON : East by : Private Property, West by : Property of Krishnappa, North by : Property of Gopalakrishnegowda, South by : Road.

B HONNALINGE GOWDA, Advocate
No.30, Kanaka Mandira, 5th Cross, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009.
Ph No. 9980516004

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
PHULBANI (R&B) CIRCLE, PHULBANI
Phone : - 06842 254004, Email: sembphulbani@gmail.com
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. CCE_R and B_PLB_05 of 2024_25
B-390 **No. 1485 Dated. 04.10.2024**

1	The Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R& B) Circle, Phulbani on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for construction of the Road works as detailed In the table below from eligible contractors.		
2	Nature of work	:-	Road Works
3	No. of tenders	:-	Two Nos
4	Tender cost	:-	Rs. 10,000/- (through online) only.
5	Class of Contractor	:-	B, A & Special Class
6	Date & Time of sale & receipt of bids	:-	10.00 AM of 19.10.2024 to 5.00 PM of 02.11.2024
7	Date of Opening of bid	:-	11.00 AM of 04.11.2024
8	The Bidders shall have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.		

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer,
OIPR- 34129/11/0007/2425 Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No. CCEKC - 18 / 2024-25
e-mail: ccekeonjharpwdcircle@gmail.com/sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com
B-361 **Letter No. 4570 dt. 27.09.2024**

1	No. of the work	:- 5 number Road & Bridge Works.
2	Estimated cost	:- Rs. 514.83 Lakhs to Rs. 730.46 Lakhs
3	Class of Contractor	:- "A" & "Special" Class
4	Period of completion	:- 09 (Nine) Calendar Months to 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months
5	Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	:- From 11.30 Hours of 09.10.2024 to 16.00 Hours of 24.10.2024
6	Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	:- 16.00 Hours of 24.10.2024
7	Date of opening of Bid from Portal	:- 11.30 Hours on 25.10.2024
8	Name and address of the officer inviting Bid	:- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in"

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer
OIPR - 34033/11/0036/2425 Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar

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Bank of Maharashtra
A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING

KORMANGALA BRANCH : No. 440, 8th Main, 4th Block, 80 feet Road Kormangala, Bangalore-560 034 **Tele:** 080 - 2563 1819 | **E-mail :** brmgr1146@mahabank.co.in
Head Office : LOKMANGAL, 1501, SHIVAJINAGAR, PUNE-5

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (SARFAESI ACT) & THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

In respect of loans availed by below mentioned Borrower through Bank of Maharashtra, which have become NPA with below mentioned outstanding amount. We have already issued detailed Demand Notice on below mentioned dates under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by Registered post with acknowledge due to you which has been undelivered. We have indicated our intention for taking possession of securities mortgaged with us under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act in case of your failure to pay the amount mentioned below within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice. Details are as under -

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower/s	Details of Securities & CERSAI Asset ID / Nature of Facilities & A/c No.	Outstanding Amt. as per Demand Notice: Demand Notice Date	Outstanding Amt. as per Demand Notice: Date of NPA
1.	**Borrower/s:** **1. Mr. Madhava Krushna Chirukuri** **2. Mrs. Lalitha Prasanna Chirukuri** **Both resided at** Flat No.F-403, 4th Floor, Shri Sai Shanthi Nilaya Apartment, Site No. 21 & 22, Ward No.8, Kodigehalli Main Road, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore-560092. **Also at** No. 2, 1st Floor, Balaji Layout, IOB Lane, Kodigehalli Main Road, Bangalore- 560092. **Also at** SKR Apartments, Plot No.5, Door No. 16-717/4, 1st Floor, Tirupathi Rao Street, SRM Colony, Srikalahasti, Chittor, Andhra Pradesh - 517644. **Also at** 3-20, Maraka Veedhi Mandapeta, Mandalam Kesavaram, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh - 533341	**Primary Security** All that piece and parcel of Residential Flat No. F-403, 4th Floor with a super built up area 1342 Sq. Ft. in the building/apartment known as "Shri Sai Shanthi Nilaya" with 230 Sq. Ft. undivided share of the land and the building constructed on site nos. 21 & 22, Old Khatha No.582/0/21 & 582/0/22 after the amalgamation BBMP New Khatha No. 641/1/582/0/31/33/21 lying and situated at Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobali, Bangalore North Taluk and the Flat is butted and bounded as follows- On or towards **North :** By Private Property; On or towards **East :** By Flat No. F- 401; On or towards **West :** By Private Property & On or towards **South :** By Flat No. F-405. **Term Loan-Housing (Sanctioned Amt. Rs.55.00 Lakh) A/c No. 60381191730, CERSAI Asset ID: 200052397119**	**Outstanding Amount as on 20.09.2024 of Rs.54,40,332.00** (Rupees Fifty-four Lakh Forty Thousand Three Hundred thirty-two only) Plus Unapplied Interest, cost, expenses etc.	20/09/2024	19/09/2024

All of you above named are advised i) To collect the Demand Notice addressed to you which is "Undelivered" from the undersigned Authorized Officer for more and complete details; ii) To pay the outstanding amount with Unapplied Interest, Cost, Expenses etc. within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice referred to above to avoid further action under the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and iii) To restrain you from disposing off or dealing with the securities without our prior written consent.

Sd /-
Date : 05.10.2024 Chief Manager & Authorized Officer
Place : Bangalore Bank of Maharashtra, Kormangala Branch

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
EXTRA-ORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION
SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) No(s) 16527 16530 OF 2023 WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELIEF
H.S MALLESH AND OTHERS .Petitioner(s)
VERSUS
THE STATE OF KARNATAKA AND OTHERS ...Respondent(s)

To, 1 THE STATE OF KARNATAKA, BY ITS SECRETARY M. S. BUILDING BENGALURU, DISTRICT BANGALORE, KARNATAKA-560001
PID: 194777/2024 FOR R[1] IN SLP(C) NO.16527-16530/2023 (SEC IV-A)
2 SRI NARAYANASWAMY S S/O LATE SRINIVASA AYENGAR NO. 798 (OUT HOUSE) 76TH A CROSS, 6TH BLOCK RAJAJINAGAR, DISTRICT-BANGALORE, KARNATAKA-560010
PID: 194778/2024 FOR R[6] IN SLP(C) NO.16527-16530/2023 (SEC IV-A)
3 SRI MUNNA RAM S/O GAYAD TAM, R/AT NO 970 5TH BLOCK VISHVESWARAIAH LAYOUT, ULLALU MAIN ROAD, DISTRICT-BANGALORE, KARNATAKA - 560056
PID: 194779/2024 FOR R[12] IN SLP(C) NO.16527-16530/2023 (SEC IV-A))
4 SRI NARASINGH RAM S/O GAYAD TAM, R/AT NO 970 5TH BLOCK VISHVESWARAIAH LAYOUT, ULLALU MAIN ROAD, DISTRICT-BANGALORE, KARNATAKA-560056
PID: 194780/2024 FOR R[13] IN SLP(C) NO.16527-16530/2023 (SEC IV-A))
5 SRI RAMU RAM S/O GAYAD TAM, R/AT NO 970 5TH BLOCK VISHVESWARAIAH LAYOUT, ULLALU MAIN ROAD, DISTRICT-BANGALORE, KARNATAKA-560056
PID: 194781/2024 FOR R[14] IN SLP(C) NO.16527-16530/2023 (SEC IV-A))

WHEREAS the Petition for Special Leave to Appeal with prayer for interim relief along with application for CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING AND REFILING THE SLP above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Mr. H. CHANDRA SEKHAR, Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner(s) above named was listed for hearing before this Court on **31st July, 2023,** when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-
"Delay condoned.
Issue notice to the respondents.
Tag along with SLP(C) Diary No. 124/2021,"
AND WHEREAS, the matter above-mentioned was listed before Ld. Registrar's Court on 21st August, 2024, When the following order was passed:
"Counter affidavit filed by the learned counsel for respondent Nos. 2 and 3 is defective. Learned counsel shall within a period of two weeks, cure the defects.
Ld. Counsel or the respondent Nos. 4, 5 and 8 to 10 have failed to file the counter affidavit despite last chance. Further opportunity to file the counter affidavit is declined. Service of notice is complete on respondent Nos. 7 and 11 but no one has entered appearance on their behalf.
Mr. H. Chandra Sekhar, Advocate has filed application for substituted service in respect of respondent Nos. 1, 6, 12 to 14. The same is allowed. Proof of publication be filed within a period of four weeks. List again on 14.10.2024. "
NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above petition with prayer for interim relief will be posted for hearing before this Court in due course and you may enter appearance before this Court either in person or through an advocate on record of this Court duly appointed by you in that behalf within 30 days from the date of service of notice. You may thereafter show cause to the Court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why Special Leave Petition and interim relief as prayed be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.
You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXI, S.C.R.2013 within 30 days from the date of receipt of notice or not later than 2 weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPs and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court/Tribunal against whose order the SLP is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted.
TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.
Dated : 31st August, 2024
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
Copy to: 1 Mr. H. Chandra Sekhar (adv.)
80, Old Lawyers Chamber Supreme Court Of India New Delhi, Delhi
2 Mr. Ankur S. Kulkarni (adv.) 103, Setalvad Chambers, Supreme Court Of India, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi-110001 New Delhi, Delhi
3 Mrs. Anjani Aiyagari (adv.) 42, Lawyers Chamber, Supreme Court Compound, New Delhi-110001m 9811133627, 9810411604, 011-23381009 New Delhi, Delhi
You are required to file affidavit of paper publication along with proof of publication at the earliest.
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

₹27,142 CR worth of shares have been sold by FPIs in October

Insurance surrender value: What it means for policyholders?

IRDAI's new norms will help policyholders as they can get a higher refund on discontinuation under the new calculation method even after paying one year premium

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @Mumbai

AFTER many a dilly-dallying and revision spanning close to three years, the new surrender value norms by regulator Irdai, which is effective from October 1, will significantly alter the life insurance landscape.

The new norms mandate life insurers to pay back higher amount to a policyholder who chooses to switch or surrender her policy. This goes a long way to protect customer interest and make insurers become more professional and also contain misselling, one of the biggest pains plaguing the insurance sector.

For the uninitiated to the life insurance lexicon, the surrender value is the money a policyholder receives if she terminates her policy before maturity. It's usually the cash value of the policy minus any surrender fees/penalties. The new norms will also help a life policyholder in many more ways including higher early-exit payouts with higher surrender value, easier portability, lesser deductions and penalties, and fewer chances of misselling as the agent may lose money if the policyholder stops paying premium early, and the customer, if not made the king yet, is assured of getting a fair treatment.

New regulations

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) released new regulations on the surrender value of life policies in June 2024 with effective implementation from October 1. The initial draft was out in December 2022 which proposed a higher surrender value but underwent many revisions.

The regulator says every policy offered by a life insurer under a non-linked platform and has acquired a surrender value should not lapse for non-payment of further premium. It should be kept in force to the extent of the paid-up sum assured, calculated by means of a formula it has approved and the reversionary bonuses or the guaranteed additions, if any, already attached to the policy. This means policyholders will get a higher refund on discontinuation under the new calculation method even after paying just a one-year premium. Before this, no surrender value was applicable to policies in the first two years of surrender/cancellation. And even from the third year, the payback was very nominal and was arbitrarily given. Now on, for the discontinued/lapsed for non-payment of premium or ported out policy after one year, you will get as much as 80-85% of the premium paid. For instance, if you paid a monthly premium of ₹10,000 (₹1,20,000 for a year), you will get slightly over ₹1 lakh as the surrender value. Till now, there was zero refund for one year.

The new norms have set some specific valuation methodologies for surrender. The following are the key benefits for a policyholder now:

Higher refund

A policyholder is legally eligible to receive a higher portion of her premium back if she surrenders the policy after the first year of the first policy year provided one full year premium has been received." The new norms also say the insurer must ensure that the SSV is at least equal to the expected present value of the paid-up sum assured on all contingencies, paid-up future benefits, and accrued/vested benefits, accounting for any survival benefits already paid.

Not just that there is also a specified rate of interest to be charged as part of the calculations, which states that the interest rate cannot exceed the prevailing yield on 10-year G-Secs plus a 50 bps spread. Earlier, after two years, the policyholder was only entitled to an unspecified guaranteed surrender value.

Fewer chances of misselling

One of the biggest benefits for customers apart from getting higher value back, is the fear of becoming a victim of misselling. The new regulations leave both insurers as well as agents fewer chances of misselling or rather no incentive to wrap an average returning policy as a high return one, as they may lose money if the policyholder stops paying premium early.

Easier portability

The new norms not only allow you to surrender, it also give you the option to port out to a new insurer—exactly like you do with your mobile connection for decades and with your health cover since this April. Now you can switch your insurer without losing much money.

Impact on Industry

Industry wide, the new norms will lead to significant changes in product and commission structures, leading to volatile premium movement in the second half of the current fiscal. However, as these changes are anticipated to be favourable for customers, the growth is likely to rise over the medium term, according to Care Ratings.

NEW IRDAI RULES
IRDAI RELEASED NEW REGULATIONS ON THE SURRENDER VALUE OF LIFE POLICIES IN JUNE 2024 WITH IMPLEMENTATION FROM OCTOBER 1
Every policy offered by life insurer under a non-linked platform and has acquired a surrender value should not lapse for non-payment of further premium.
The new norms not only allow you to surrender it also give you the option to port out to a new insurer
For the discontinued/ lapsed for non-payment of premium or ported out policy after 1 year, you will get 80-85% of the premium paid
A policyholder is legally eligible to receive a higher portion of her premium back if she surrenders the policy after the first year

MONEY MATTERS

HOW TO GROW YOUR WEALTH PASSIVELY

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THE Securities and Exchange Board of India recently relaxed rules to enable mutual funds to launch passive investment schemes swiftly. You may wonder about the importance of this action. Despite all the noise about mutual funds through active campaigning, only three to four per cent of people invest through mutual funds. The total assets under management of MFs may have topped ₹ 60 lakh crore. However, as a percentage of gross domestic product or GDP, it is not even 20%. In developed markets, it is well over 100% of GDP.

When mutual fund regulations were put together in the 90s, the regulatory framework for eligibility, trustee and sponsor relationships, asset management, and other things was designed with active fund management in mind. That means diversified equity, hybrid, and multi-cap schemes that involve a fund manager's creation and maintenance of a portfolio. The job is to outperform the benchmark index. Hence, it is essential to have strict oversight when setting up a fund management team.

In the case of passive funds like index funds or exchange-traded funds, they follow a rule-based investment strategy set by the underlying index. The asset management company or the fund manager has little to do in this situation. For example, a Nifty 50 index fund will have the same allocation as the Nifty 50 index. It will only change when the company managing the index changes the composition of the schemes. As a result, existing mutual fund regulations do not necessarily apply to passive funds. As a result, Sebi has introduced a Mutual Fund Lite framework for companies looking to launch only passive mutual fund schemes. New companies looking to launch only passive schemes can do so under these relaxed eligibility criteria rules.

What does it mean to you

If you are new to investing, index or exchange-traded funds are easy to understand. Your returns are in line with the benchmark index. For example, if there were an index fund that tracked the S&P BSE Sensex, the fund would have grown from 100 in 1980 to 3500 in 2001 to over 80,000 today. The compounded annual growth rate, or the average growth rate assuming reinvestment of profits, is around 13%. That is probably well above the average inflation rate in the economy over these years. The primary objective of investing must be to beat inflation and create long-term wealth. Your retirement savings deserve the necessary time to grow into a corpus that can take care of your old age. The National Pension Scheme (NPS) allows you to opt for index funds for your retirement money. Till 15 years ago, India did not have such a meaningful, defined contribution scheme. India only had defined return schemes, such as an employee provident fund or a public provident fund, where the government paid a guaranteed rate of return.

However, due to the extent to which equity markets perform over 30 years, the government-guaranteed return schemes cannot match those returns. While equity-linked index funds do not guarantee any return, equity as an asset class outperforms all other asset classes over 30 years. The average annual return on NPS since its launch 15 years ago is 13%. No government guarantee scheme can offer you that kind of a return.

Your retirement plan should be a meaningful allocation to NPS and index funds if you are young or in your 30s. You do not have to understand the nuances of finance or dive into sectoral analysis too much. Knowing the big picture to understand the impact of global and local events on interest rates and corporate profits is good enough to get a sense.

You do not have to engage in timing the market and determine when to enter or exit. A steady inflow into index funds will allow you to create enough corpus to beat inflation and care for your needs.

Getting a professional financial advisor to determine suitable index fund schemes or exchange-traded funds would be a good idea. The new Sebi rules make it simpler for mutual funds to contact you.

MONEY-WISE

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF INVESTING

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

INVESTING is an absolute necessity – I would call it part of the 5th R – Money! It is also scary! Imagine it is at a cross of politics, mathematics, emotions, markets, salesmen, and your own future. For a non-investor it is unavoidable and scary.

How can a person explain investing to a person who is scared about investing? Simply by giving examples of our day to day living.

- Tell a housewife that if she can plan and run a house, she can look after the house's portfolio too
- Tell a man if he is doing 'costing and budgeting' for his employer, he can do the same thing for his family too.
- Tell the family that building a financial plan is like building a bridge – you should assume that there will be overloading and likewise some excess capacity has to be provided for.

Compound interest is like buying mango and using the seed to start a mango farm. How many mangoes will be created out of one mango is infinite! We all know that one mango has one seed -but one of us knows how many mangoes are there in one seed. Even a seventh class kid understands this concept.

Investing in good companies is like cooking – putting more heat will not make things faster. One has to know the technique and require adequate patience.

Families are kept together by sensible parenting. Parents can sit with children and explain all these concepts to children. Tell them the difference between needs, wants, luxuries and how the family prioritises its money usage.

Tell the children and others in the family that equity (or commodity or crypto) trading is addicting and can ruin their lives. Example of Yudhishtra (from Mahabharat) of how addicting gambling can be! Investing is very boring but makes a lot of money in the long run. The earlier you start, the more you invest, and the longer that your money stays invested, the more your wealth will be. Telling people 'your dish tastes more sweet when there is more sugar' – is easy to explain, is it not?

The more examples that a salesman or a relationship manager can give the easier it is to explain life and general insurance, mutual funds, portfolio management services, etc. to the end clients. For the financially responsible family member, who handles finances, it is necessary to explain all this to the other members of his or her family.

When our kids are growing up, we tell them – 'Be careful, don't talk to strangers'. When parents become older it is necessary to remind them of this very lesson. Once you are a senior citizen, it becomes necessary to be updated about online frauds, scams, spam mail, etc. It is not always easy to 'parent' a parent, but it is necessary to do so. Keeping them out of harm's way is as important as keeping your children out of harm's way. Both physical dangers and financial dangers are things one has to worry about.

Explaining all these concepts to all the people connected with you with such examples helps.

Ola founder Agarwal and comedian Kamra spar over service quality issues

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @Bengaluru

OLA founder Bhavish Agarwal and stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra on Sunday engaged in a heated exchange on social media platform X, following Kamra's criticism of the company's electric scooters.

Kamra responded to Agarwal's post -a photo of Ola's gigafactory, "Do Indian consumers have a voice? Do they deserve this? Two wheelers are many daily wage workers lifeline ...," Kamra wrote along with the photo.

He also wrote: "Anyone who has an issue with OLA electric leave your story below tagging all...".

Agarwal responded, "Since you care so much @kunalkamra88, come and help us out! I'll even pay more than you earned for this paid tweet or from your failed comedy career. Or else sit quiet and let us focus on fixing the issues for the real customers." He added, "We're expanding service network fast and backlogs will be cleared soon." Kamra responded by posting a video clip of one of his shows with audience clapping and cheering and called the Ola Electric founder and CMD "arrogant and substandard".

In response, Agarwal said, "Did it hurt. It's very less. Come to service center. I will pay better than your flop shows pay you." Kamra then challenged Agarwal to "give a total refund to anyone who wants to return their OLA EV & who's purchased it in the last four months", saying he doesn't need his money but "people not being able to get to their workplace need your accountability," Kamra said.

The Ola founder hit back saying, "We have enough programs for our customers if they face service delays. If you were a genuine one, you would have known. Again, don't try and back out of this. Come and do some real work rather than armchair criticism."

After funding, Anil Ambani group plans growth strategies

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE Anil Ambani group is poised to execute its growth startegies after it raised ₹17,600 crore fund and two of its operational firms Reliance Infrastructure Ltd and Reliance Power Ltd became near zero debt companies, sources with the company said.

A senior official of the group stated that Reliance Group's strategy of raising capital through equity or equity-linked long term bonds will offer the group companies essential growth capital for their expansion plans.

In the past two weeks, both Reliance Infrastructure and Reliance Power have announced raising ₹4,500 crore through preferential issues of equity shares, and ₹7,100 crore from global investment fund, Varde Partners through equity linked long term FCCBs.

An additional ₹6,000 crore will be raised through Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP), with Reliance Power and Reliance Infrastructure each aiming for ₹3,000 crore. With resolutions in place, shareholder approvals are expected by the end of the month. Even with a conservative debt-to-equity ratio of 70:30, raising over ₹17,000 crore in equity or equity linked bonds will provide the group companies a total investment outlay of ₹50,000 crore for their future business plans over the next few years, sources in the company said.

Fundraising to boost networth

Even with a conservative debt-to-equity ratio of 70:30, raising over ₹17,000 crore in equity or equity linked bonds will provide the group companies a total investment outlay of ₹50,000 crore for their future business plans over the next few years, sources in the company said. The fundraising will also boost the net worth of both companies to around ₹25,000 crore.

The fundraising will also boost the net worth of both companies to around ₹25,000 crore. According to stock exchange disclosures, both companies are raising ₹4,500 crore through preferential issues of equity shares. Of this, ₹1,750 crore will be invested by the promoters, while the remaining ₹3,750 crore is being contributed by four major investors, namely Fortune Financial & Equities Services, Florintree Innovations LLP, Authum Investment and Infrastructure, and Sanatan Financial Advisory.

In addition, Varde Partners is investing ₹7100 crore, through Equity linked Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCB). These equity linked FCCBs have a long maturity period of 10 years and low interest rate of 5%.

LIC increases stake in Bank of Maharshtra to 7.10% through QIP

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

STATE-OWNED Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has increased its stake in Bank of Maharashtra from 4.05% to 7.10% after the life insurer acquired 25,96,86,663 equity shares through the bank's qualified institutional placement (QIP).

Bank of Maharashtra raised ₹3,499 crore through issuance of 61,01,81,311 equity shares of face value ₹10 each to eligible qualified institutional buyers at the issue price of ₹57.36 per share against the floor price of ₹60.37 per equity share. LIC acquires 42.56% of the total shares issued through the QIP. Other major buyers included ICICI Prudential Life Insurance (8.51%) and Aditya Birla Sunlife Insurance (5.67%).

The Issue opened on 30 September 2024 and closed on 4 October 2024. After the QIP offer, the paid-up equity share capital of the Bank of Maharashtra now stands increased to ₹7,692 crore from ₹7,081 crore.

LIC holds more than 10% stake in ITC (15.19% stake), Stock Holding corporation of India (14.95%), Sidbi (13.33%) and Golster Ltd (12.73%).

The state-owned insurer is also categorised as promoters in around dozen companies through its stake holding.

These include Axis Bank, in which the compnay holds around 8%, Stock Holding corporation of India (14.95%) and J&K Development Finance Corporation Ltd (12.5%) and Clearing Corporation of India (10%). Other banks where LIC holds substantial stake include IDBI Bank (49.24%), Axis Bank (8%), State Bank of India (8.83%) and Punjab National Bank (8.34%).

Gauff pockets China Open title

Coco Gauff won her second title this season with a lopsided 6-1, 6-3 victory over Karolina Muchova in the final of the China Open on Sunday. Aged 20, the sixth-ranked US player became the youngest China Open champion in 14 years. She is also the second American champion in Beijing, following Serena Williams' title runs in 2004 and 2013.

REAL JEM: RUN RODRIGUES RUN

Thrust in the all-important No. 3 role, Jemimah holds fort at one end against Pak, after throwing herself in the field

Jemimah Rodrigues was moved up the order to bat at No. 3 once again against Pakistan in a must-win match on Sunday | AP

JEMIMAH Rodrigues keeps running. Whether it is during the field or between the wickets, one can sense the urgency in every move she makes. There used to be a time when she would get frustrated if that running was not fetching her any returns. Now, with more experience at the international level, better clarity on what she wants to do with the energy she has, and maturity, she has been able to deal with it in a better way. And that same Rodrigues was on display in the first two fixtures for India at the ongoing T20 World Cup in UAE.

After a big loss against New Zealand in the opening game, India had only one day to manage their comeback against Pakistan. The conditions were not in anyone's favour as both teams were playing their first afternoon games of the tournament at the Dubai International Stadium. Pakistan's decision to bat first meant India had to face the brunt of the sun. As always, Rodrigues was at all the possible fielding hotspots.

According to the weather app, the temperature was officially recorded at 36 degrees Celsius, but it was surely feeling more than 40 degrees Celsius. Neither the temperature nor the running had any effect on Rodrigues. Inside the Powerplay, she was equally agile at point as she was outside of it as a boundary rider. India's disciplined bowling, a slow pitch, relatively slow outfield, and a much-improved fielding compared to the first game against New Zealand, led to Pakistan only managing to score 29 runs in the first six overs.

While the bits of dropping easy catches and misfields continued, this time it did not cost India too much. At one point, Pakistan's former captain, Nida Dar, was struggling to find gaps and whenever she tried to go for runs there was no escaping, mostly from Rodrigues, Sajana Sajeevan and Arundhati Reddy — the pick of the fielders. There was no running twos on Rodrigues' arm who mostly patrolled boundaries. After being one of the unluckiest bowlers in the first match where plenty of catches were dropped off her bowling, Reddy finally got her share of wickets. By the looks of it, both teams had accepted that the match was not going to be one of the higher-scoring ones as Pakistan only managed to score 105 for the loss of eight wickets.

For India, in the group of death, winning the match was never going to be enough after a loss in the opener by 58 runs. For India to have their NRR positive, they needed to chase the total in less than 12 overs. The opening pair of Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma had much more responsibility on their shoulders, especially since they could not give the team the start they needed in the opener when they added only 11 as a pair. Verma did survive an early LBW shout in the very first over of the innings, but the fortunes of the team did not change from there. If it wasn't for the five wides that Fatima Sana bowled, India would have only scored 13 runs in the starting four overs of the game.

Kaur retired hurt

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur hurt herself while trying to get back into the crease after playing a shot in the 19th over. She held her neck and walked off the field with 29 runs of 24 balls. When asked about the injury, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana said: "Too soon to say anything. Medical team is looking at it."

The wicket of Mandhana in the penultimate over of the Powerplay brought Rodrigues into the middle, yet another unexpected move from the Indian team management. After letting captain Harmanpreet Kaur come at three to bat in two warm-up games and the opener in Dubai, which led to Rodrigues moving away from number five where she was stationed for an extended period of time, the musical chairs regarding the position continued again when Mandhana, wearing No. 5 at the back, came to bat at three, leaving Kaur to go back to her original position of four.

It did not take Rodrigues much time to get going in her new position. With the second ball she faced, she was off and doing what she loves. Run. She pushed Verma to run two immediately, who had only run two on three occasions till that point. Despite having four dot balls and a wicket, India managed to salvage that over with four runs in the end. That is what Rodrigues brings to the table. While Verma found some old form and started hitting boundaries, it was never enough for India as the aim to finish the game as early as possible was slowly slipping away.

Thrown in the middle at number three, on the relatively hard pitch for batters, Rodrigues did what she could. While there was no boundary in her innings, the need of the hour was for someone to stick there and finish the game and she did exactly that. Player of the match, Reddy later confirmed that winning the match was the priority as they could not afford to lose one at this stage. "We understand net run rate is important but winning the game is all the more important for us," Reddy said in the post-match press conference. "Net run rate will be in play, especially in this group. Honestly, today the wicket was playing a little slower. So obviously, the batters could not (go for runs)," she added.

In the match that ended up giving mixed emotions to Indian fans, Rodrigues did what she does best. Sometimes to save runs, other times to score a few. And she will continue to do so.

Brief scores: Pak 105/8 in 20 ovs (Dar 28; Patil 2/12, Reddy 3/19) **lost to** India 106/4 in 18.5 ovs (Verma 32, Sana 2/23).

Cheering from stands, UAE stars take lessons

KALYANI MANGALE @Dubai

THE Dubai International Stadium was absolutely buzzing on the bright Sunday afternoon for India versus Pakistan. While the cricketing rivalry between these two countries doesn't have that much of a history compared to the men's game, the crowd showed up. Precisely, a 15935-strong crowd cheered for both teams. Amongst them was the special group of players. They are the hosts, but on Sunday, the players from the UAE women's cricket team were also the most excited spectators on the ground.

"It was a brilliant experience, "UAE's spinner Vaishnave Mahesh told this daily after the match. "It is so lovely to watch the women's game get so much crowd at the neutral venue. Ever since Asha (Joy) Di made it to the national team, I have watched her bowling closely, but today I observed it closely. I wanted to absorb as much as I could while watching today," she added.

When asked about the standout moment of the game for the cricketers turned spectators, the two moments took the cake. Richa Ghosh's diving catch to dismiss the opposition captain was closely followed by the two wickets Fatima took in an over to shift the momentum in Pakistan's way. UAE's regular team manager, Subha Srinivasan, has been attached to the Indian team as a liaison officer and the team could not be proud of one of their own. As the Indian team was getting on the bus after the match, this group of players was there to cheer Srinivas. They were one of the loudest. The instantly named "Shubha Ji Cheer Squad" did not fade even with those looks. "She is one of us and is now attached to one of the biggest teams in the world and we cannot be more proud of her. Her insights on what team culture looks like can be passed onto us when we take the field. We can improve so much from it. And yes we are the biggest cheer squad of Subha ji. And I want her to do well."

UAE players watching India-Pakistan match from the stands on Sunday

When asked if the heat and the conditions can get. better many of them chuckled and said "This is Dubai's winter. It will take time for players to adjust with it but it is as pleasant as it could get. We could see Australian players struggle in the heat."

While they were watching the game, the hurt of not being there was still haunting all of them. After coming close to beating Sri Lanka, one of the participants in this edition during the Qualifiers, it could have them playing at these venues, soaking it all in. And that is when they said in one voice that they would like to be here and soon. Dubai Cricket stadium enjoyed the cricket. But for few, it was a lesson and inspiration. It was an opportunity to cheer one of their own and they took it with both hands.

PROTEAS SEEK MOMENTUM

AFTER THEIR FIRST WIN AGAINST WEST INDIES, SOUTH AFRICA FACE ENGLAND ON MONDAY. A LOOK...

Mlaba vs England top-order

Left-arm spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba kick-started South Africa's campaign in style, and will be the biggest challenge for England in Sharjah. How Maia Bouchier and Danni Wyatt-Hodge handle her will set the tone.

Powerplay batting in focus

Although Tazmin Brits and Laura Wolvaardt got South Africa across the line, all eyes will be on how they bat in the first six overs vs England. With the depth they have, the duo will have to up the ante early.

England vs South Africa, Sharjah, 7.30 PM
Live on Star Sports and Hotstar

West Indies defeat Scotland

Riding on their excellent show with the ball, West Indies got the better of Scotland by six wickets on Sunday. With this, West Indies opened their account in the tournament after losing the first match to South Africa by 10 wickets. For Scotland, it was their second successive defeat. Opting to bat after winning the toss, Scotland could only manage 99 for eight in their allotted 20 overs with leg-spinner Afy Fletcher (3/22) doing the star turn for the Windies with the ball. **Brief scores:** Scotland 99/8 in 20 ovs (Kathryn 25; Fletcher 3/22) **lost to** WI 101/4 in 11.4 ovs (Qiana 31, Dottin 28 n.o).

Ten Hag future up in air after United draw at Villa

AGENCIES @London

Erik ten Hag | AP

MANCHESTER United's winless run in all competitions extended to five games after a 0-0 draw at Aston Villa in the Premier League on Sunday, leaving manager Erik ten Hag's position uncertain heading into a two-week international break.

Ten Hag arrived at Villa Park under huge pressure with United having lost three of its six league games and the club's minority owner, Jim Ratcliffe, failing to say he had faith in the Dutch coach when asked specifically on Friday.

However creditable gaining a point at Villa is, it might still not be enough for Ten Hag — especially with United's new leadership having two weeks to weigh up his future before the team's next game. United is in 14th place in the 20-team league. Meanwhile, Chelsea drew 1-1 with Nottingham Forest thanks to Noni Madueke's equalizer in the 57th minute at Stamford Bridge. Forest took the lead eight minutes earlier through Chris Wood.

Varun steals show on India comeback

ENS @Chennai

Varun Chakravarthy (R) celebrates with teammates in Gwalior on Sunday | PTI

WHEN India took the field against Bangladesh in the first T20I on Sunday, it was always going to be about one player — Mayank Yadav. The pacer who rose to fame in the Indian Premier League made his debut along with all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy.

If Yadav impressed with his pace, Nitish has moved up the ranks for he represents a rare entity in Indian cricket — seam-bowling all-rounder. Both bowled, Yadav even took his first wicket for India, but in the end, it was Varun Chakravarthy and Arshdeep Singh who stole show the as India beat Bangladesh by seven wickets.

Arshdeep, India's premier white-ball pacer at this point, does what he always do and gave early breakthroughs in the powerplay. He removed both the openers before Varun took over. The Tamil Nadu spinner, in a comeback journey of his own, first got the wicket of Towhid Hridoy and then followed it up with another in the tenth over as the visitors were down to 57/5 in 9.2 overs.

Varun, who had fallen off the radar after 2021, broke into the Indian team on the back of a stellar show in the IPL for Kolkata Knight Riders. He was instrumental in the Gautam Gambhir-mentored side lifting the title at his home ground in Chennai. Since then, he had to wait for his chance and it eventually came for this series. The spinner grabbed the chance with both hands, taking three wickets — Arshdeep took as much as the visitors could only manage 127. In response, India got there in just 11.15 overs with Hardik Pandya smashing 39. "After three long years, it was definitely emotional for me," Varun told broadcasters, before adding, "After IPL, I played a few tournaments and one of those was the TNPL. That's a place where I worked a lot, with Ash bhai (R Ashwin) also. It was good preparation for me for this series." **Brief scores:** B'desh 127 in 19.5 ovs (Mehidy 35 n.o; Arshdeep 3/14, Varun 3/31) **lost to** India 132/3 in 11.5 ovs (Hardik 39 n.o).

PROMISING TALENT

Mohsin's quest to rise above challenges with Honda Racing India

ANMOL GURUNG @Chennai

THE stage was set for IDEMITSU Honda India Talent Cup NSF250R's concluding race of the season. The technicians from the team were at it too, crossing out all the checklists required in order to ensure a smooth ride for the participants. Tyre pressure: check; brakes: check; suspension: check (part of the checklist).

In that atmosphere, one of the riders, Mohsin Paramban, seemed calm and relaxed. The 21-year-old from Mallapuram had already done his homework well before the technicians had taken over at the Madras International Circuit on Sunday. That eye for detail is one of the reasons behind Mohsin's smooth ride in the championship, an initiative by the Honda Racing India to nurture promising talents for both national and international championships.

Having pocketed the overall title with a victory just 24 hours or so ago in the six-lap Race 1 of the fifth and final round, Mohsin could afford to relax. But that didn't mean he wasn't willing to go full throttle in his last assignment as he was hunting for his eighth win of the season. However, he was denied by Savion Sabu, who displayed nerves of steel, to capture the 8-lap Race 2. Mohsin's run was only good enough for second spot. "I'm not happy with my performance. I was hoping to finish on a high," Mohsin later reflected.

Mohsin Paramban (9) navigates a turn during Race 2 at the MMRT in Chennai

He's mindful that he needs to keep producing the Ws in order to climb the ladder that is generally considered to be steep (motorsport is still considered a niche sport with sponsors being hard to come by for riders like Mohsin). Though they get all the support from Honda Racing India, most riders don't have a steady income and they have to fend for themselves sometimes. Honda Racing India, on their part, are cognizant of the challenges the riders face and have been looking to enhance their support in the near future. It's mainly performance-driven. Miss out on a race due to injury and that could hurt their chances of generating income.

"I need a good back up, then I could get the license to push more. That is something that is lacking. Most people see this as a hobby," Mohsin noted.

Despite the uncertainties related to finance, Mohsin has done well to earn a spot in the Honda Racing India team in the Asia Road Racing Championship. Mohsin, despite dominating the just-concluded championship, is not content. "I'm not happy where I am. Honda has given me a good opportunity to ride in an Asian event. Winning here doesn't give me much happiness. I couldn't get the desired results in Asia and I was one of the backmarkers. I don't like to be at the back," Mohsin, who got into his current team through Honda Talent Hunt programme in 2018-19, assessed.

Mohsin, who got the bug for racing after watching MotoGP in his childhood years, felt his confidence soared after acing the talent programme. With limited resources, he has learnt to get that extra edge by studying from his rivals even during the races. IDEMITSU Honda India Talent Cup NSF250R (Top 3): Race 2: 1. Savion Sabu; 2: Mohsin Paramban; 3: Beedani Rajender.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Ganges Grandmasters' woes continue in GCL

LONDON: GM Hikaru Nakamura and Elisabeth Paehtz led the charge for the American Gambits as they scored a crucial 10-4 victory against the Viswanathan Anand-led Ganges Grandmasters in the opening round on day four of the Global Chess League. With 4 losses in 5 matches, Anand's team is in serious trouble.

Cueist Advani wins Singapore Open title

NEW DELHI: Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani won the coveted Songhe Singapore Open title with a 5-1 win over local favourite Jaden Ong in Singapore on Sunday. On his way to the final, Advani beat former IBSF world snooker champion Dechawat Poomjaeng of Thailand 4-3 in a thrilling quarterfinal at the Lagoon Billiards Room.

Sultan of Johor Cup: Amir Ali to lead India

BENGALURU: Amir Ali has been named captain, with Rohit as his deputy, in the 18-member junior hockey squad for the Sultan of Johor Cup that will mark the first assignment for head coach PR Sreejesh in Malaysia from October 19. India will begin their campaign against Japan on Oct 19. The top two teams will make the final slated for October 26.

Tendulkar joins NCL ownership group

HOUSTON: Sachin Tendulkar has joined America's National Cricket League (NCL) ownership group, a move that is expected to give a big boost to the sport in the USA. This season, the NCL brings together cricket legends like Sunil Gavaskar, Zaheer Abbas, Wasim Akram, Dilip Vengsarkar and Sir Vivian Richards.

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

MPPSC SFS EXAM Date: October 6, 2024

NIACL AO PRELIMS EXAM Date: October 13, 2024

MPPSC SSE Date: October 21 to 26, 2024

A look at CAT
THROUGH THE YEARS

INDIAN Institutes of Management (IIMs) started the Common Admission Test (CAT) in the year 1977. From a handful of IIMs back then, the CAT now serves as a full-fledged entrance test not just for the IIMs but for over a hundred B-schools across India. It is not an exaggeration to call it the mother of all MBA entrance exams in the country. From what was a paper-pencil test with over 150 questions in the early 2000s the CAT has now evolved into a leaner and meaner online test since 2009. Keeping with the times, for the last three years, it has had just 66 questions.

In its paper-pencil days, the CAT was notorious for the kind of surprises it would throw at its test takers — from the duration of the exam to the overall number of questions, from section sequence to the number of questions per section, from marking scheme to the timing of the sections, from the types of questions to the topics these questions could come from — everything was known to the students only after they sat for the test and opened the paper. From those astronomical levels of lack of information, CAT now discloses the sections and their sequence along with the overall time for the exam and if the sections are timed individually, along with the marking scheme. It, however, does not disclose the number of questions and their topics beforehand.

THE PATTERN OF CAT 2023

Section	Number of questions	MCQs	Non MCQs	Sectional time limit
Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension	24	20	4	40 minutes
Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning	20	14	6	40 minutes
Quantitative Ability	22	14	8	40 minutes
Total	**66**	**48**	**18**	**120 Minutes**

The evaluation scheme was three marks for a correct answer and a penalty of a mark for a wrongly marked multiple-choice question (MCQ), while non-MCQs have no negative marks. This was the same as that of the earlier years. There were no noticeable surprises as far as the pattern goes as the number of questions per section was the same as that seen in CAT 2022 and 2021. The overall difficulty of the CAT 2023 morning slot was slightly on the higher side compared to all slots of the two previous CATs. The afternoon and evening slots were slightly easier compared to the morning slot. While the difference in difficulty was not significant, the evening slot had a relatively tougher Quant section.

The VARC section

In the Verbal and Reading Comprehension (VARC) section, while the difficulty of the RC part varied a bit across the three slots, the difference was not much. All the slots had at least two passages that were easy or moderately difficult. However, even the easier passages had difficult questions. The VA part had four question types — Para Formation, Para Odd Man Out, Para Summary and Sentence Placement — with two questions of each type. This was a slight deviation from the previous years, which had only three question types.

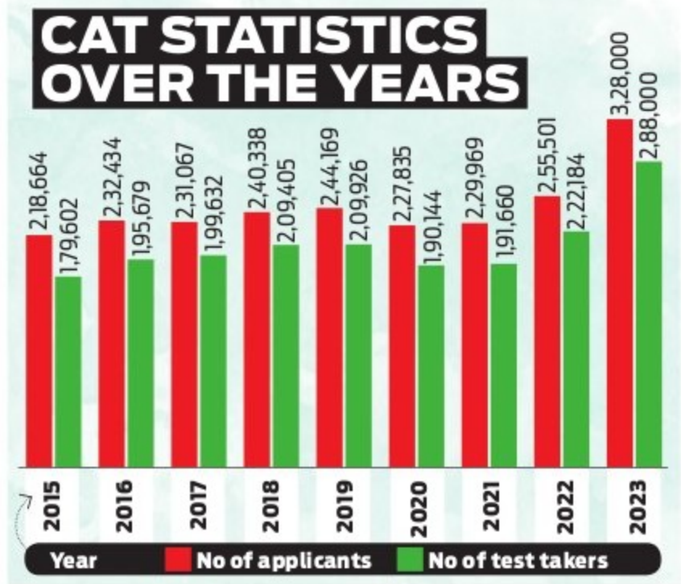
The DILR section

The Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning (DILR) section this year had the same pattern as last year — four sets with five questions each. There was no clear distinction between DI and LR sets as there were hardly any sets that were purely LR based. Most sets in each slot involved calculations. Do note, the DILR section had no sets on graphs or charts. The key to scoring high was selecting the right sets but there were no definitely-easy and must-attempt sets this year.

The Quant section

The Quant section across all the slots was significantly tougher than last year's Quant. Students in the afternoon slot might have braced themselves a bit after having heard feedback from the morning slot candidates. But the evening slot candidates did not have this respite as they still had to deal with a really difficult paper. Overall, students had to be hands-on with multiple topics as several questions required students to apply concepts across different topics.

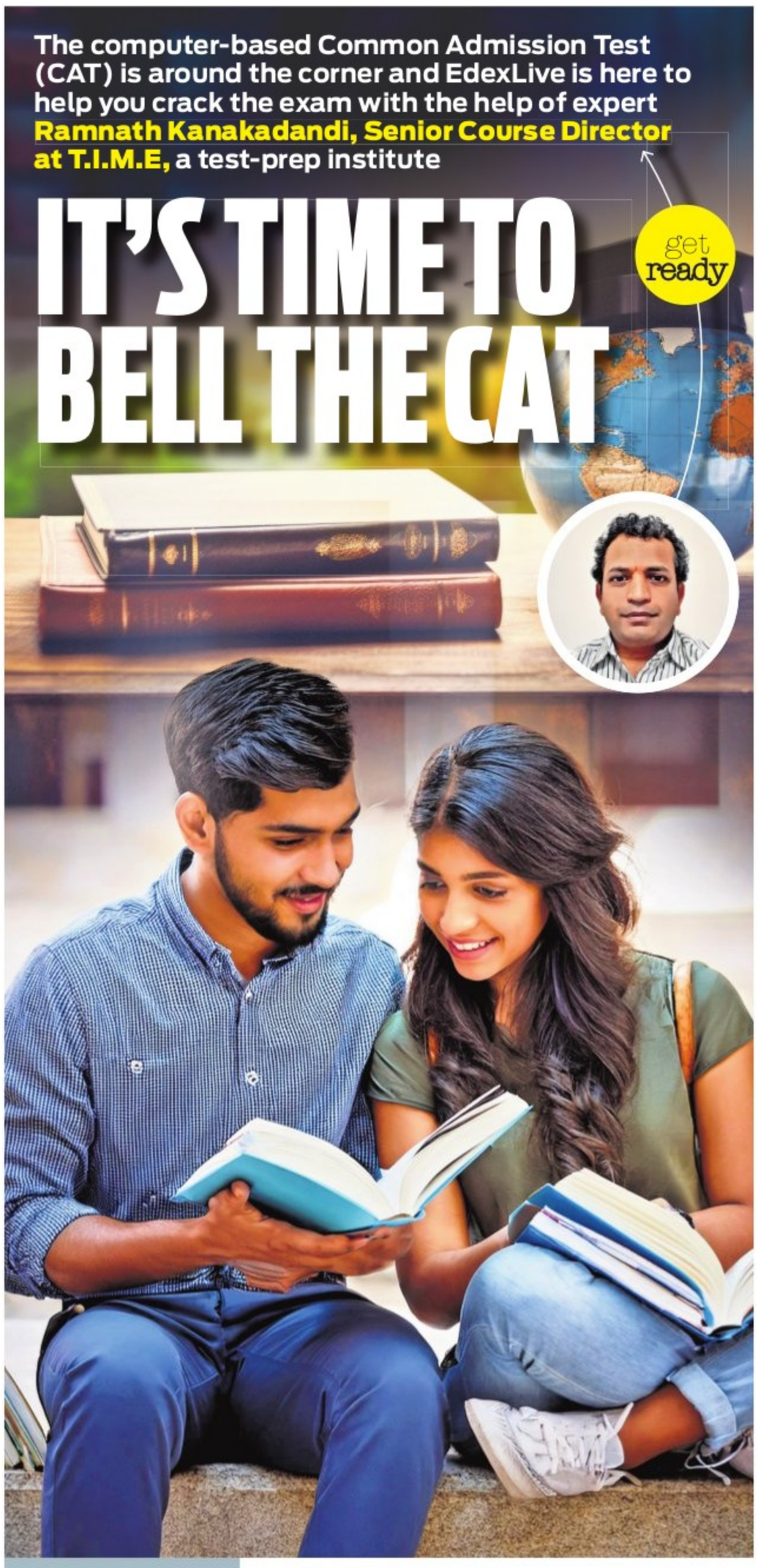
CAT STATISTICS OVER THE YEARS



The computer-based Common Admission Test (CAT) is around the corner and EdexLive is here to help you crack the exam with the help of expert **Ramnath Kanakadandi, Senior Course Director at T.I.M.E,** a test-prep institute

IT'S TIME TO BELL THE CAT

get ready



Starting off with CAT preparation: Quick Q&A

Who should consider taking the CAT?
Anyone who wants to make it big in life by nurturing a great and fetching career and is also a graduate or in the final year of graduation.

What can one expect from the exam?
CAT is a school-level exam — nothing beyond Class X is in scope for the exam except for a couple of concepts, which have, of late, not been focused on much in the CAT exams.

What about the admission process post-exam?
After the exam, students are selected for the 2nd phase (Personal Interview along with an Essay writing task/Group Discussion and so on) based on their CAT scores and their reservation status. While work experience and academic performance in Classes X, XII and graduation are also looked at, their weightage, in the case of most IIMs, is limited to under 10-15%, making the CAT score the most important factor.

What are the important preparation factors?
With just under two months to go, students should now focus on getting their test-taking strategy right. Focus on taking mocks, identifying weaknesses and hone strategies based on strengths and weaknesses, while ensuring that the weaknesses are taken care of.

When to take the CAT
as a fresher or with work experience?

MOHAN is an engineering student in his final year of college who has been selected by a leading IT (Information Technology) firm. He is confused if he should attempt CAT now or get two years of experience first, and then attempt it. Now consider the following:

year	Work Exp and then MBA		MBA and then Work Exp	
Year 1	(+) 6 L	Pre-MBA salary	(-) 10 L	MBA fee
Year 2	(+) 6.6 L		(-) 10 L	
Year 3	(-) 10 L	MBA fee	(+) 25 L	Post-MBA salary
Year 4	(-) 10 L		(+) 27.5 L	
Total	**(-) 7.4 L**		**(+) 32.5 L**	

Assuming the fee of the college he would get into two years later does not go up, he is effectively choosing between making ₹12.6 lakh in two years and doing an MBA or doing an MBA, and then making ₹52.5 lakh in two years. Mohan would have earned more if he had gone for an MBA first.

- The fee for the B-School has been assumed to remain the same. However, it is likely to go up with every passing year.
- For getting a promotion, his work experience as an MBA would be more relevant & valuable.
- With a job, it would be difficult for him to start his preparation for an entrance test, as his job wouldn't leave him with much time.
- If he has prepared earlier, he can definitely find time to brush up on the concepts but not otherwise.
- Most importantly, the amount of post-MBA learning that Mohan would have got on the job would be many times more than the learning that he would have got by working pre-MBA.
- To top this, the learning being of higher quality, will be aligned to the kind of work that Mohan is expected to be doing going forward in his career.
- If we look at the weightage given to work experience in the IIMs, it's not more than 10% for most of the IIMs. So, it's not as much of a difference as it is hyped to be.
- Even during the placements at B-schools, the added incentive for every year of work experience is not much in monetary terms.

On to CAT 2024

HOW ABOUT WE GET THE BASICS OUT OF THE WAY FIRST?

- CAT is scheduled to be conducted on the last Sunday of November.
- The application deadline, which was to end on September 13 was extended by a week.
- Candidates could edit their applications and make any corrections till the evening of September 30.
- The pattern announced was similar to the pattern of CAT 23/22/21, similar in terms of the number of sections, their order, and time per section.
- The number of questions per section was not disclosed.
- While students can largely expect the pattern to remain the same as that of the last year, surprises cannot be ruled out entirely.

FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK

wise talk

CAT's significance lies in the fact that it is not just a selection tool; it's more of a proving ground for aspirants aiming to thrive in a competitive business environment. Unlike other management entrance exams, CAT emphasises a blend of versatility, resilience, and adaptability — traits that go beyond textbook knowledge. It analyses the capability of an aspirant in navigating uncertainty, optimising performance under stringent time constraints, and prioritising effectively amidst varying difficulty levels.

CAT remains vital due to its acceptance by over 1,000 B-schools, including the prestigious IIMs and IITs, making it the gateway for top management education in India. With over 3 lakh candidates vying for a few thousand seats, CAT's high competition ensures only the best make it through. Unlike other exams with predictable structures, CAT's variable difficulty levels and emphasis on percentile ranking require strong strategic and time-management skills. It assesses not just knowledge but adaptability, quick thinking, and problem-solving abilities, attributes highly valued in managerial roles, ensuring CAT's importance remains unparalleled.

The exam's evolving format compels students to remain agile, think innovatively, and adapt to new problem-solving techniques each year. This evolving nature shapes candidates to be better equipped for modern business landscapes, where adaptability and quick decision-making are indispensable. While other exams focus on testing specific skills, CAT transforms the learning experience by creating a high-stakes environment that cultivates mental agility and sharp analytical thinking. It prepares candidates for the dynamic demands of leadership and strategic management, making it invaluable in shaping future business leaders.

PROF HIMANSHU RAI, Director, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Indore writes

CAT CALLINGS

Students of the premier institute, Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, share their insights about the relevance of the CAT exam among other alternatives

CAT is a dream for many aspirants aiming for IIMs or top business schools. Each aspirant has different motivations for pursuing an MBA, few with prior work experience seek faster growth chase after corporate roles or change their domain or industry. I had always aspired to study management and work in a corporate setting or pursue entrepreneurship later, I joined IIM Lucknow as a fresher after completing my BBA at IIM Rohtak. IIMs are always talked about as premier institutes, but there are colleges like the Faculty of Management Studies (FMS), Xavier School of Management (XLRI), Management Development Institute (MDI) and Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) that conduct their own tests. While getting into older IIMs is challenging, CAT scores offer entry to other reputable MBA colleges. CAT is an aptitude test that tests numerical, logical, and verbal skills, alongside time management, decision-making, and the ability to handle pressure. Though a few skills come naturally, they can all be improved with practice. The selection process, which includes interviews and the Written Ability Test (WAT), is holistic, assessing personality traits for management fit. The diversity of backgrounds at IIMs opens doors to unique experiences and learning opportunities.

L SHRUTI, Student, IIM Lucknow

SHAKSHI SINHA, Student, IIM Lucknow

My journey has been one of transformation, evolving from a shy, academically weaker student to a confident individual through consistent effort. After completing my Class XII in Commerce, I pursued a BCom from Patna Women's College, where I led a project to establish a school for rural children, refining my leadership skills. Recognising the importance of growth, I took the CAT exam to challenge myself and step outside my comfort zone. The CAT is a significant management entrance exam in India, serving as the gateway to the prestigious Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). Admission to these institutions is highly coveted, given their world-class faculty and extensive alumni network. Preparing for the CAT honed my problem-solving abilities and instilled discipline that proved invaluable during my MBA journey. Securing admission to IIM Lucknow opened a world of learning opportunities, where I developed a strategic approach to business challenges and balanced creativity with data-driven decision-making. This transformative experience laid the foundation for my internship at Pidilite Industries, where I tackled real-world problems and engaged with industry leaders. The skills I acquired at IIM Lucknow were pivotal in landing this internship and securing a pre-placement offer (PPO), solidifying my path to marketing.

— Compiled by Harsha Tallapragda and Saumyangi Yadav

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

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07.10.2024
MONDAY

FOX NEWS channel

DAY'S DIARY

Fox News launched

On this day in 1996, the powerful name in cable news aired its first broadcast on the Fox News Channel to 17 million cable subscribers

HARD BEGINNINGS

Initially, few cable providers refused to carry Fox News. Reporters asked if there was an appetite for another all-news station as CNN dominated cable news back then

CREATORS

Amid skepticism, media mogul Rupert Murdoch went ahead with his vision to launch the channel. He hired Roger Ailes as the founding CEO

SUCCESS

A quarter-century later, Fox News has a lot to celebrate and recently finished the third quarter of 2021 as the most-watched network

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

TINY TRADITIONS, BIG STORIES

As Navaratri begins, homes across B'luru transform into showcases where dolls of all forms are arranged in intricate sets, evoking entire worlds – some ancient, others modern – each crafted to tell stories rich with heritage

(Clockwise from above) People explore the doll collection at Studio Tamaala, J P Nagar; Pattada Gombe; Miniature of a Dasara procession and other handmade dolls made by rural artisans; A constitution-themed doll exhibition, exploring themes like Pride March at the National Gallery of Modern Art; Actor Amrutha Iyengar explores a doll collection on showcase at a mall | NAGARAJA GADEKAL, VINOD KUMAR T AND ALLEN EGENUSE J

This October, artistes across the social spectrum come together to shun gender stereotypes, exploring various shades of masculinity

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

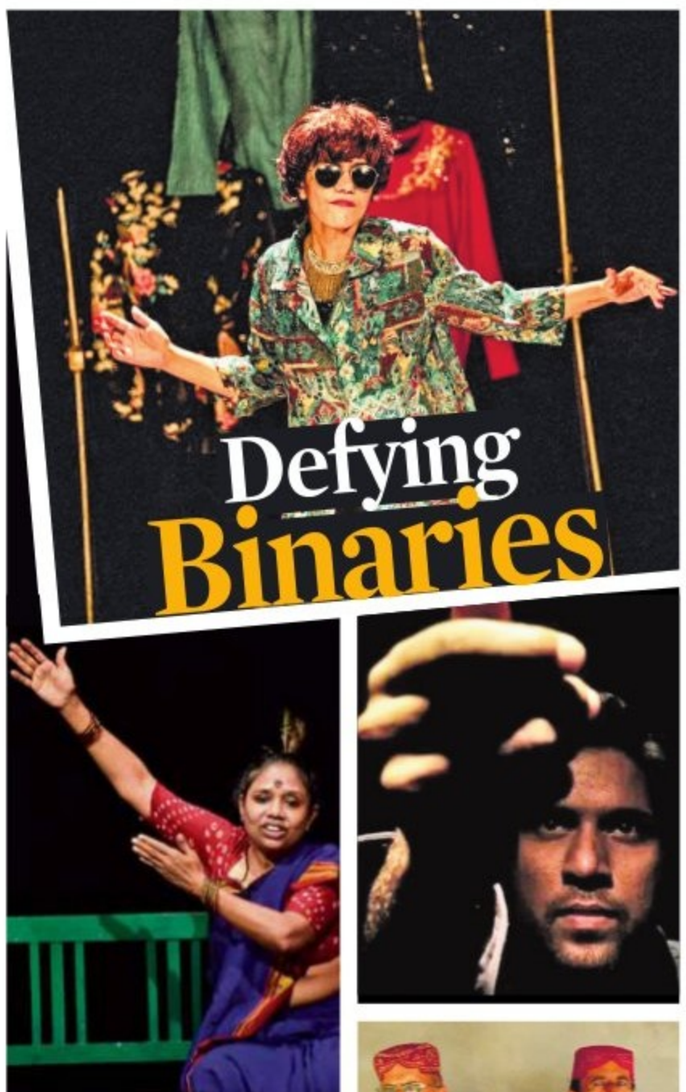
IN most cultures, masculinity and femininity are considered completely separate and opposite in every way, as different from each other – as a stone and a flower. But city-based media and arts collective Maraa questions this notion with its ongoing annual arts showcase, October Jam, instead exploring gender as a spectrum of expression. With the theme 'Stone Flowers: Exploring the Masculine Feminine', the showcase asks: Is there a bit of the stone in the flower and the flower in the stone? What desires, fears, and fragilities do they share?

The showcase is currently underway and will be held until November 3, featuring around 22 film screenings, art exhibitions, and music, dance, poetry, and theatre performances held across the city.

One of the performances that plays with the fluidity of expression between masculine and feminine is *Launda Naach*, a Bihari folk dance performed by men in drag. "The performer impersonates a woman but goes back to becoming a man. It's very different from a trans man or a trans woman performing. I feel this interesting flux in the performer's body which allows us to go beyond the fact that there is man, woman, and transgender. There's also this fluidity that is visible in this performance," says Ekta Mittal, co-founder of Maraa.

In the process of working with several women's rights organisations as part of their theatre practice, Maraa's members noticed that the figure of the man emerged either as a perpetrator or as someone to be reformed. According to Angaarika Guha, co-curator of the festival, it's often more complex than that. "When we say masculinity, we assume that there's just one kind of man. But if we include the questions of caste, religion, or class, they are very different kinds of masculinities. In a public space, would a working-class man have the same kind of power as an upper-class man? Of course not, because there's a particular way in which class shapes their expression of masculinity," Guha adds.

Exploring a nuanced understanding of masculinity, Maraa undertook an ethnographic study two years ago. In their conversations with people across social contexts, they found something surprising: many men do not want to perform the rigid masculinity that society expects of them. "In a patriarchal context, it's a very specific kind of masculinity or femininity that gets legitimised. A lot of men may not want to be the breadwinners or



Defying Binaries

be aggressive or dominant. But if you don't perform that kind of masculinity or perform the functions of a particular caste group, then there are some serious consequences," Guha explains. "One of the ethnographers told us he really didn't want to have a moustache, but in his caste, it's a matter of pride to have a big moustache. So his own family would taunt him for not having it."

The collective has offered a fellowship to 12 artistes of various classes, castes, linguistic backgrounds, genders, and sexual identities who have delved into their relationship with masculinity through art, photography, theatre, and more over the last six months. October Jam will platform their work in a showcase, titled Mirrors, alongside several other artistes' work engaging with masculinity. "The aim is to expand the scope of masculinity and identify the different kinds of masculinity and femininity that play within each of us. It is not about defining masculinity but throwing up questions about the relationship between its different kinds. The artistes we've invited are people whose work doesn't fall into either binary," shares Guha.

Furthermore, October Jam also features Journey of a Voice – a performance by poet and classical singer Rumi Harish, inspired by his experience of gender transition; the Sufi music concert Daastan from Shah Jo Risalo; and Rap x Gaana by transgender Delhi rapper Kinari. Theatre aficionados can look forward to *Upar Wala Kamra* by director Anoop Gupta, exploring the complicated relationship between a father and son. Film screenings include filmmaker Govind Nihalani's 1980 classic *Aakrosh*; Céline Sciamma's French film *Water Lilies*; and the Taiwanese film *I Don't Want to Sleep Alone* by Mingliang Tsai.

(For more information, visit @maraacollective on Instagram)

(Clockwise from top) Savita Rani; Jaiprakash Kumar; Ataullah Jat & Arab Jat; DU Saraswati

Manifesting Dreams

Smitha Rao, a 37-year-old from Bengaluru, on being crowned the Mrs Confident at the recently-concluded Mrs India Asia pageant

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

IN a world dominated by fresh-faced debutantes in their teens and twenties, women in their thirties and beyond often feel there's no place for them in pageantry. Challenging this perception, the Mrs India Asia finals, held in Gurugram last week, saw 72 women from across India, competing for 20 titles. Among them, **Smitha Rao**, a 37-year-old Bengalurean, stood out with her unwavering self-belief, winning the title of 'Mrs Confident'. "It still hasn't sunk in, I've hardly had any sleep while preparing for the pageant," she shares.

A spiritual healer, life coach, and social worker, Rao balances many roles. She recalls that the toughest part of her preparation was spending months at the gym, focusing on strength training. She credits her win to her mental resilience: "I had to struggle in the gym because I'm mostly used to doing yoga. I was also under the weather for three weeks before the pageant day, which was very difficult. Apart from that, I have been doing inner work which brought me closer to myself and kept me calm. I was cool and confident. At the mental level, this is what matters."

To women who hesitate to pursue their dreams after marriage and motherhood, Rao offers encouragement: "You have only one life, make the best use of it. Family and everything else can wait. Don't postpone the things you want to do for yourself because only when you're happy, can you make others around you happy."

CAFFEINATED COMFORTS

PG3

CITY READ

British luxury automaker unveils new SUV series in India

Rolls-Royce, one of the leading British luxury automakers, has launched the Cullinan Series II in India, marking an expansion of its luxury SUV offerings. Since the original model's 2018 release, the Cullinan is known for its off-road capability and signature luxury. The Series II introduces design updates, and expanded bespoke options. Pricing starts at ₹10.5 crore. The first deliveries are expected in late 2024.

International education fair held

Education in Ireland, the brand representing Irish Higher Education Institutions worldwide, conducted its flagship Education Roadshow 2024 at Taj MG Road over the weekend. The fair showcased 18 top Irish Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). Over 400 aspiring Indian students and parents engaged with academics from Ireland's higher education institutions, gaining insights into Ireland's educational landscape. Mr Barry O'Driscoll, regional manager, India & South Asia for Education in Ireland, said, "We are thrilled to see the growing interest of Indian students in Ireland's world-class higher education institutions."

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'.** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The winner will receive a voucher worth ₹1,000 from Serious Slice – RR Nagar**

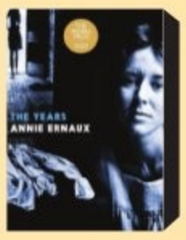
THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Stein 2) Reibekuchen 3) Märzen

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Priya M 2) Nikhil Kumar 3) Priyanka Das

BOOK NOOK

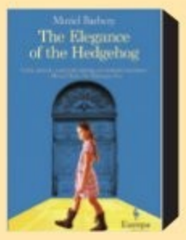


The Years
By Annie Ernaux

A personal narrative told through impressions past and present with photos, books, songs, radio, television and decades of advertising, headlines, contrasted with intimate conflicts and six decades of diary notes by the author.

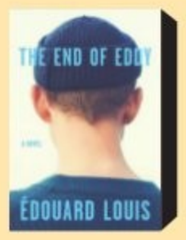
The Prophet
By Zeina Abirached

What is freedom? And who is right, the rational or the passionate? Two of the 26 universal questions to which Almustafa, the 'Chosen and Beloved', provides answers. A graphic novel written with Zeina Abirached's characterestic humour.



The Elegance of the Hedgehog
By Muriel Barbery

Renée, a concierge, is witness to the lavish but vacuous lives of her numerous employers. Paloma, a 12-year-old genius, is the daughter of a tedious parliamentarian. A story of why Paloma and Renée both hide their true talents and their finest qualities from a world they suspect cannot or will not appreciate them.



The End of Eddy
By Edouard Louis

Young Eddy is assaulted in a primary school corridor...The book captures the violence and desperation of life in a French factory town. It is also a sensitive, universal portrait of boyhood and sexual awakening. An autobiographical novel by Edouard Louis.

LABOUR OF LOVE

An artist decorates an elephant sculpture at the Festival of Handmade at Jayamahal Palace Hotel | ALLEN EGENUSE J

QUICKFIX

GARLIC HERB VEGETABLES

INGREDIENTS

- **Zucchini (sliced):** 1
- **Red bell pepper (thinly sliced):** 1
- **Carrot (julienned):** 1
- **Broccoli florets:** 1 cup
- **Olive oil:** 1 tbsp
- **Garlic cloves (minced):** 3
- **Oregano:** 1 tsp
- **Salt and pepper to taste**

METHOD

- Chop all the vegetables.
- Heat oil in a pan over medium-high heat.
- Sauté the minced garlic, for 1-2 minutes until golden brown but not burnt.
- Add all the vegetables. Stir occasionally, cooking for 5-7 minutes.
- Season it with oregano, salt, and pepper. Stir for another minute, and serve hot.

Contributed by **Priyanka Singh**, Delhi

DR VIVEK ARORA

drvivekarora@hotmail.com

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi

Dogs and cats seem high maintenance. Are parrots easier to keep? What are the basic dos and don'ts one has to keep in mind while rearing a parrot?

Parrots can be less demanding in some ways but still require significant care. Basic dos include providing a spacious cage, a varied diet of fruits, vegetables, and pellets, and regular social interaction to prevent boredom. Don'ts include neglecting their need for mental stimulation and social engagement, as they can become destructive or develop behavioural issues if lonely. Avoid using toxic household items or foods. Regular vet check-ups are essential to maintain their health. While less physically demanding than dogs or cats, parrots need considerable time and attention to thrive.

ASK AN XPERT

FITBIT

MATSYASANA BADDHA KONASANA PADA
(FISH POSE BUTTERFLY LEGS)

This is a combination of the Matsyasana (Fish Pose) and Supta Baddha Konasana (Reclining Bound Angle Pose) of hatha yoga. It is good for hormonal balance and beneficial for the reproductive organs of both males and females. It is good for women to regulate their menstrual cycles. It improves the health of the ovaries, prostate glands, kidneys, and bladder. This pose is effective in weight loss.

STEPS

- Lie on your back, aligning to Supta Tadasana, feet together, hands relaxed alongside the body, and palms facing the ground.
- Inhale, place the hands underneath the hips, palms facing down. Bring the elbows closer. Breathe.
- Breathing in, lift the head and chest. Taking the support of the elbows, keep the chest elevated, lower the head back and touch the top of the head to the floor.
- Press the elbows firmly into the ground, placing the weight on the elbow and not on the head. Lift your chest from between the shoulder blades. Press the thighs and legs into the floor.
- After a couple of breaths, fold the legs in a butterfly position – feet facing each other a little away from the groin and knees bent.
- Hold the pose for as long as you can, taking long gentle breaths. Relax in the posture with every exhalation.
- If you feel the legs and pelvic area are getting stressed, place a block each under the knees to support the lower body.
- Keep a chair handy, which should be according to your height; your feet must touch the ground. Start the practice by sitting tall on the edge
- To release the pose, straighten your legs, slowly release the neck, lower the chest, and head to the floor.
- Finally, bring your body back to a supine position and relax in Savasana

BENEFITS

- Stretches chest, neck, groin, hamstrings, psoas muscles, and abdomen.
- Tones the glutes and the thighs.
- Lengthens the spine. Strengthens the spine and back muscles.
- Muscles on the sides and front of the ribs get stretched.
- Facilitates more oxygen intake and expansion of the diaphragm.
- Helps in enhancing the focus.
- Stimulates Throat and Heart Chakras.
- Helps make wise decisions and gives power of discernment.
- Balances the three base chakras – root, sacral, and solar plexus.
- Stepping stone to meditative practices. Beneficia for the lungs.
- Prepares the hips and groins for meditative seated poses.
- Helps detoxify the body by flushing out the wastes, increasing metabolism
- Stimulates the thyroid glands.
- Therapists can use it for postnatal treatment after eight weeks of initial healing.

LIMITATIONS

- Students with knee, ankle, neck, or shoulder injuries, migraine, epilepsy, HBP, cardiac issues, trauma, anxiety, major spinal ailments like, scoliosis and kyphosis, brittle joints or rheumatoid-arthritis, kids, senior citizens, and pregnant women should avoid this.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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@xpress_bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Monday Healing

Discover Access Bars, a relaxing technique that releases stored energies from 32 points on the head. Get mental clarity and openness to new possibilities with this gentle, transformative practice.

WHEN: October 7, 9.30am
WHERE: The Healing Presence, Yelahanka
DETAILS: allevents.com

Nature Retreat

Visit Triquetra, a serene retreat by Kanva Lake, surrounded by lush greenery. Escape into nature's embrace, exploring a vast landscape that's perfect for a peaceful getaway.

WHEN: October 7, 8am
WHERE: Triquetra, Kannamangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Art Therapy

Explore creativity through clay ceramics and canvas painting. Join this fun workshop with expert guidance to refresh your mind while mastering art techniques in a relaxed setting.

WHEN: October 7, 10am
WHERE: BrainArt Studio, HSR Layout
DETAILS: allevents.com

Farm-to-Table Brunch

Experience a unique farm-to-table brunch featuring local Rajanukunte produce. Savour seasonal dishes like nati koli curry, Champaran mutton, and bhutte ki seekh, paired with refreshing kachi keri ka sharbat. Celebrate nature's bounty with every bite.

WHEN: October 13, 12.30pm onwards
WHERE: Angsana Oasis Spa and Resort, Rajanukunte
CALL: 9741792890

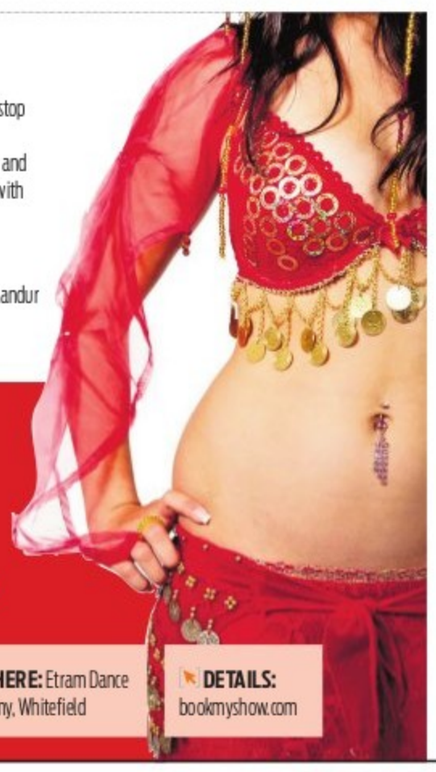
Party Night

Groove to Bollywood tunes with non-stop juke music by mixologist Kaito. Enjoy mouth-watering appetisers, cocktails, and mocktails, and dance the night away with friends.

WHEN: October 7, 8pm
WHERE: Ottoman Restobar, Bellandur
DETAILS: allevents.com

Acting Workshop

Join writer and improv comedian **Saad Khan**'s one-day acting workshop, designed for aspiring actors. Learn the craft from a director's perspective, with insights into performance techniques.
WHEN: October 13, 10am **WHERE:** FITSOCIO, Jayanagar
CALL: 8147862724



Dance Demo

Learn the art of Belly Dance in this one-hour demo workshop. Practice isolations, waves, and shimmies while discovering the nuances of this graceful form. The workshop is open for beginners.

WHEN: October 8, 6.30pm
WHERE: Etram Dance Academy, Whitefield
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

ARTCORNER

AN OCEAN OF PLASTIC

Mumbai-based artist Aaditi Joshi uses polypropylene bags from construction site to evoke pressing environmental concerns

CAFFEINATED COMFORTS

Coffee, in any form, brews many emotions — for some, it smells like a slice of a fond memory, for some, it's a sip of comfort, and for others, a feeling of warmth. Here are some coffee-based recipes about this much-loved beverage

AASHNA REDDY

IF you love Gilmore Girls, Friends, or Breakfast at Tiffany's, you know that coffee is more than just a drink — it's a way of life. From Lorelai and Rory's endless cups at Luke's to the gang's cosy chats at Central Perk, and Holly Golightly's enchanting moments over a café au lait, coffee has a way of bringing people together. With another International Coffee Day (October 1) having gone by, let's raise our cups to celebrate the rich flavours, warm connections, and joyful moments that coffee brings into our lives. So, pour yourself a cup and let's dive into the delightful world of coffee by exploring delicious recipes that incorporate this beloved brew — from decadent desserts to delightful treats.

Affogato

Recipe by Roopak Singh, New York

START with a scoop (or two) of your favourite vanilla ice cream in a small bowl or cup. Brew a fresh shot of hot espresso and pour it right over the ice cream. The result is a delicious contrast of hot coffee melting into cold ice cream, creating a sweet, creamy treat. You can also try it with a sprinkle of cinnamon or a drizzle of chocolate syrup for an extra touch.

Tiramisu Fluffy Pancakes

Recipe by Divya Lakshmi, a homemaker

FOR the pancake batter, mix in a shot of espresso alongside your usual wet ingredients like buttermilk and vanilla. Pour the batter onto a hot skillet and cook until bubbles form, then flip to cook the other side. Stack the pancakes high, then top them with a dollop of mascarpone cheese, dusted with cocoa powder, for a tiramisu-inspired breakfast that's light, fluffy, and oh-so indulgent!

Espresso Martini Tiramisu

Recipe by Aarya, a student

START by soaking ladyfingers in freshly brewed espresso (don't let them get too soggy). In a separate bowl, mix mascarpone cheese with a splash of coffee liqueur until smooth and creamy. In a martini glass, layer the espresso-soaked ladyfingers with the mascarpone mixture. Repeat layers as needed, ending with the cream on top. Dust the top with cocoa powder or grated chocolate for a finishing touch. Chill before serving, so the flavours meld together, and enjoy this elegant twist on tiramisu that's perfect for coffee and dessert lovers alike!

Origins of Filter Coffee

- Indian Filter Coffee, also known as Degree Coffee or South Indian Filter Coffee, became widely popular in the 19th and 20th centuries. It is distinct from other coffee brewing methods like espresso or French press and has unique cultural significance, particularly in South Indian homes.
- The filter used in making this coffee is a cylindrical metal device with two compartments: the upper one holds the ground coffee, and the lower one collects the brewed decoction. Boiling water is poured over the coffee grounds, and the decoction slowly drips down, yielding a concentrated brew.
- Coffee made with this brewing technique has a distinctive, rich flavour. Traditionally, it is served in a davara tumbler — a set of stainless steel cups where the coffee is poured back and forth to cool it down and mix the milk and coffee evenly.
- In South India, some families grind coffee beans at home and add chicory to the coffee powder to create a thicker, richer brew. The addition of chicory, a roasted plant root, gives South Indian Filter Coffee its characteristic taste and texture. Chicory also makes the coffee less bitter and enhances the strength of the brew, which became highly favoured by the locals.
- The key to great South Indian Filter Coffee is in its balance: freshly ground coffee powder, precise brewing time, and the right ratio of milk to coffee decoction. It's typically served with frothy milk and sugar, creating a comforting, robust drink. Filter coffee remains a cherished symbol of hospitality and culture in south India, and a morning ritual for many.

Coffee French Toast

Recipe by Krish Jain, Mumbai

WHEN making your egg-milk mixture for French toast, whisk in a bit of brewed coffee for a richer flavour. Dip your bread slices into the mixture, making sure they're soaked but not soggy. Fry in butter until golden brown and serve with a dusting of powdered sugar and a generous pour of maple syrup. The subtle coffee flavour elevates this breakfast classic into something truly special.

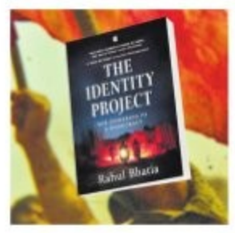
Coffee Nutella Muffin Cups

Recipe by Tharana Arun, a student

PREPARE your muffin batter — flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. In a bowl, cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs one at a time, then stir in vanilla extract. Combine the dry ingredients with milk until the batter is smooth. Spoon it into greased muffin tins. Mix Nutella with a dash of brewed coffee, swirl this mixture into the top of each muffin cup before baking. This adds a rich coffee-chocolate twist that bakes right into the muffins.

NUGGETS

Event discusses Aadhaar & identity in India



Writer and journalist Rahul Bhatia discussed his book *The Identity Project* on October 6, at the Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. The discussion explored the intersections of technological and cultural identity in modern India. Bhatia's investigation into the Aadhaar project uncovers links between national identity and a century-old cultural project. Through a character-driven narrative, the book examines disinformation, justice, and the nation's democratic challenges. The discussion was followed by an engaging audience Q&A.

Festive menu celebrates Bengali cuisine

This festive season, explore a culinary journey at Hilton Bangalore Embassy GolfLinks' Ministry of Food, which transports you to the streets of Kolkata where you indulge in specially curated menus that capture the essence of Bengal's rich culinary heritage. Dishes include macher chop, badam sobji cutlet, fish orly and many more. The special menu is available from Oct 9 and 12 between 12.30pm and 3pm. Prices start at ₹1999++. For more details, call 73537 59831.

Coffee chain launches mithai-inspired menu

This Diwali season, Coffee chain Starbucks has introduced a limited-edition range of beverages infused with Indian flavours like saffron. The drinks include saffron pistachio latte, saffron masala chai, and saffron cold brew. In collaboration with Bombay Sweet Shop, Starbucks is also offering mithai-inspired treats such as gulab jamun trifle and khubani barfi bar.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **A. Vishwanatha Bhat**, S/o. Late Sooryanarayana Bhat, Aged about 58 years, Residing at No. 298, 3rd Cross, Vidyagiri Layout, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru - 560 072, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Viswanatha Bhat** to **A. Vishwanatha Bhat** vide affidavit dated 27.07.2024 sworn to before Prakasha .C, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I **NISHCHAL M** residing @ #2 10th Cross, D Street Magadi Road, Bangalore - 560 023 Karnataka has changed my name to **NISHCHAL YAASHMIT NIJAY** vide affidavit dated on 05/10/2024 sworn before Notary C. K. Anupama, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RATTAN PRAKASH GUPTA,** S/o. Sadhu Ram Noranglal Gupta and residing at No. F-701, Salarpuria Melody Apartment, Pantarapalya Nayandanahalli, Bangalore-560026, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RATTAN PRAKASH SADHU RAM GUPTA** to **RATTAN PRAKASH GUPTA,** vide affidavit dated 05.10.2024, sworn to before M. Radhamma, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **BHAVANI SURENDER SINGH,** aged 36 years, D/o. Surendar Singh, Resident of No. 1131, 1st Main, HMT Layout, 7th Block, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru -560097, have changed my name to **BHAVANI SURENDAR SINGH,** vide affidavit dated: 04.10.2024 before Notary **DEEPA .M.,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **LAVYA NARAYANASWAMY @ LAVYA BHARATH** W/o. Bharath H G, Aged about 36 years, Resident of # 21, 3rd Floor, Archin Shivanahalli 2nd Stage, Nehrunagara, Opp. Unishire Apartment, Off Jakkur, Yelahanka, Bangalore North - 560 064, Karnataka, do hereby state that, I have called by both the names **LAVYA N @ LAVYA BHARATH.** I hereby declare that my name is called as **LAVYA NARAYANASWAMY** vide affidavit dated 05.10.2024 sworn to before S.P. Gandhi, Advocate and Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru Rural District.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DIVYASHREE. M,** resident of **No. 12, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Nagarabhavi, Maruthi Nagar, Bengaluru-560 072** have changed my name to **ANCHALKAR DIVYASHREE. M** Affidavit dated 05/10/2024 sworn before advocate and notary **M.S. Satish, Bangalore**

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **Supreeth J Burji** aged about 40 years, s/o Jagadish B Burji and **Smt. Preetham Shankapal** aged about 38 years, w/o Supreeth J Burji, presently residing at #864, 13th Main, Nagarbhavi 2nd stage, Bengaluru - 560072, Do hereby declare that we have changed our son's name from **Shivansh to Shivansh S Burji** vide affidavit dated 30/09/2024 sworn to before Shreeshail B Gobbani Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mahaveer Kanhaiyalal Ganna S/o late Shri Kanhaiyalal Ganna Aged about 44 years, residing at No 42/1, "BHIKSHU KUTEER" Model Colony, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore 560022. Do hereby declare that I have changed my Minor Daughter name from HARSHA M GANNA to HARSHA M JAIN vide affidavit dated 05-10-2024. before Notary A Manjula Bangalore**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SOUMI PATRA,** W/o Subham Banerjee, age 37 years, R/at B-304, Skandarsi Paradise, I Cross Road, 3rd Phase, ITI Layout, Nayandahalli, Bengaluru-560 039 do hereby declare that I have changed my son's name from **SAMRIDH PATRA BANERJEE** to **SAMRIDH PATRA,** henceforth he shall be known and called as **SAMRIDH PATRA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 30-05-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **A.C. SUBBU SWAMY** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **R SAVITHA @ SAVITHRAMMA R** D/o Ramachandrareddy W/o K.M. Shivananda, age 44 years, R/at Valagerekallahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-562 125 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **R SAVITHA** and **SAVITHRAMMA .R** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 22nd August 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MUNISWAMY .T** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUBHASH CHANDRA S,** Father of No.7782329F, Ex-Sep KIRAN KUMAR S, presently residing at #330, 2nd Floor, Krishnamurthy Building, Pothalappa Garden, Adugodi, Bengaluru 560030, have changed my name from **SUBHASH CHANDRA S** to **SUBHASH CHANDRA,** vide Affidavit Dated: 05/10/2024, sworn before Notary **S.Samuel Solomon,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MONESWARI GOYARI,** Mother of 13630549A L/NK Mahendra Goyari R/o House No. ML Lines 47/01, PRTC, JC nagar, Bangalore – 560006, have changed my name from **MONESWARI** to **MANESHWARI GAYARY,** vide affidavit dated 4-10-2024. Before Notary Chandrashekaraiah .S, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **SAMEER .A** and **FIRDOS UNNISA,** Residing at No. 47, Near Sadiq Mosque Coconut Garden Chikkabanavara, Bengaluru-560090, do hereby declare that we have changed our son's name from **MOHAMMED AREEB S** to **MOHAMMED AYAAN .S,** vide affidavit dated 03.10.2024, sworn to before Ramachandrappa.C, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **A.V. NANDEESH RAO,** resident of **No. 90, Sruthi Nilaya, 3rd Cross, Jabbar Block (Bhuvaneshwarinagar), Vyalikaval, Bengaluru 560 003** have changed my name to **ANCHALKAR.V. NANDEESH RAO** Affidavit dated 05/10/2024 sworn before advocate and notary **M.S. Satish, Bangalore**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **(OLD NAME) SYED ABUBAKER** residing at No.7, 20th Main Road, 21st Cross, J.P.Nagar 5th Phase, S.M.S. Layout, BANGALORE -560078, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SYED ABUBAKER** to **(NEW NAME) SYED ABUBAKAR** vide affidavit dated 01.10.2024 sworn before Notary M.K.Devaki., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GULAYYA**, Father of Service No. 16112128P, Rank: HAV, Name: SANGAYYA MANIHALMATH, presently residing at AWARADI (Vill), AWARADI (Post), RAMDURG (Tehsil), BELAGAVI (Dist.), KARNATAKA State, PIN: 591127, have changed my name **GULAYYA to GULAYYA NAGAYYA MANIHALAMATHA**, DOB: Change FROM 01.07.1964 TO 01.01.1957, vide affidavit dated 01.10.2024 sworn before notary S.I Balaguru, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PRAMILA** D/o Rathnakar, age 53 years, R/at No. 55/1, First Floor, P Venkatappa Layout, 6th Main, 3rd Cross, Near Daffodils English School, Postal Colony, Sanjaynagar, Bangalore-560 094 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **PRAMILA** to **PRAMILA BANGERA**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **PRAMILA BANGERA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 5-10-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **JALANDHARA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ADHVIKA PAI,** D/o Ballambat Raghavendra Pai, age 23 years, R/at L-105, Purva Panorama Apartments, Kalena Agrahara, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560 076, do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **ADHVIKA PAI B** and **ADHVIKA PAI BALLAMBAT** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **ADHVIKA PAI D/o Ballambat Raghavendra Pai** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 3-10-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **G.B. TURAMARI** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RAMKUMAR MUTHURAJAN** S/o R Muthurajan, age 44 years, R/at K-153, Aditya Sollievo Apartment, New Temple Road, Nallurahalli, Whitefield, Bangalore-560 066 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RAMKUMAR MUTHURAJAN RAJA VISWANATHAN** to **RAMKUMAR MUTHURAJAN,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **RAMKUMAR MUTHURAJAN** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 3rd day of October 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **C. SRINIVASA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ANANDA GOYARI,** Father of 13630549A L/NK Mahendra Goyari R/o House No. ML Lines 47/01, PRTC, JC nagar, Bangalore – 560006, have changed my name from **ANANDA GOYARI** to **ANANDA GAYARY,** vide affidavit dated 4-10-2024. Before Notary Chandrashekaraiah .S, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SRINIVASA MURTHY B K** S/o Krishne Gowda S, aged about 41 years, R/@ No.110, SGR Lavilla, Sarjapura Main Road, Near Krismar Granites, Doddakannahalli, Carmelaram Post, Bengaluru-560035 do hereby solemnly state that, as given in Aadhaar Card (No.9920 4309 2591) my correct name is **SRINIVASA MURTHY B K.** But in my Passport it is wornly mentioned as **SRINIVASA MURTHY.** I further state that I request concerned authorities to rectify this mistake vide affidavit dated 03.10.2024, sworn before Notary, **Muniswasmy T,** Anekal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MALLAVVA S.M** , is legally wedded spouse of Service No. 16112128P, Rank: HAV, Name: SANGAYYA MANIHALMATH, presently residing at AWARADI (Vill), AWARADI (Post), RAMDURG(Tehsil), BELAGAVI (Dist.), KARNATAKA State, PIN:591127, have changed my name to **MALLAVVA BASAYYA HIREMATH,** DOB:10.07.1987, vide affidavit dated 01.10.2024 sworn before notary S.I Balaguru, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mahaveer Kanhaiyalal Ganna S/o late Shri Kanhaiyalal Ganna Aged about 44 years, residing at No 42/1, "BHIKSHU KUTEER" Model Colony, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore 560022. Do hereby declare that I have changed my Minor Daughter name from PREKSHA M GANNA to PREKSHA M JAIN vide affidavit dated 05-10-2024. before Notary A Manjula Bangalore**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SANGAMITHRA MURTHY SAKTHI,** W/o. Arun Krishnan, residing at #43/44, 2nd Cross, 2nd Main, Pothalappa Garden, Adugodi, Bengaluru 560030, Karnataka State, have changed my name to **SANGAMITHRA ARUN,** vide affidavit dated: 05.10.2024, before Notary **N Kanchivaradaraju,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NAVANEEDAM,** legally wedded spouse of 1166845K, Ex-NK MUNU SWAMY, presently residing at #3/2, 1st 'A' Cross, Dasappa Layout, 3rd Block, Ramamurthynagar, Doroavaninagar Post, Bengaluru 560016, have changed my name from **NAVANEEDAM** to **NAVANI THAMMAL,** vide Affidavit Dated: 05/10/2024, sworn before Notary **S.Samuel Solomon,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Santosh H, S/o. K. C. Hanumanthaiah, Aged about 34 years, residing at No. 325, 4th Main, 4th Cross, Annapoorneshwari Nagar, Srigandhada Kavalu, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560 091, I declare that have changed my father name from **Hanumanthaiah.G.K** to **K.C. Hanumanthaiah,** vide affidavit dated 26/9/2024 sworn before Chandrashekaraiah.S advocate and notary Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **ANANDA R K,** S/o Late Krishna Gowda, aged about 45 years, residing at No. 282, 1st Main, 3rd Cross, NTI Layout Phase I, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Kodigehalli, Sahakaranagar PO, Bengaluru-560092, Karnataka, do hereby declare that names **ANANDA R K** and **KRISHNEGOWDA ANAND RAYASAMUDRA** refer to one and the same person i.e., myself. In future my correct name is **ANANDA R K,** vide Affidavit dated 04.10.2024, sworn to before K.V Nanjaiah, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mrs. RANJITHA D. N** W/o, **Mr. Putta Raju,** R/a 32, 1st Floor, 5th Cross, Near Kuvempu College, Mallesandra, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-560057 here by declare that both names **RANJITHA RAJU** and **RANJITHA D.N** are the same and belongs to me only. Hereafter I shall be known/ called as **RANJITHA D.N,** Only. vide affidavit dated 01/10/2023 before notary ANURADHA. D, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHANTHAVVA**, Mother of Service No. 16112128P, Rank: HAV, Name: SANGAYYA MANIHALMATH, presently residing at AWARADI (Vill), AWARADI (Post), RAMDURG (Tehsil), BELAGAVI (Dist.), KARNATAKA State, PIN: 591127, have changed my name from **SHANTHAVVA to SHANTHAVVA GULAYYA MANIHALAMATHA**, DOB: FROM 01.07.1966 TO 01.01.1963, vide affidavit dated 01.10.2024 sworn before notary S.I Balaguru, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DIVYA SHARMA,** C/o NARENDERA SHARMA, R/o at # 223/6, Village - Jyol (Bahot), Chatrokhari, Sunder Nagar, VTC: Khera, PO: Sunder Nagar -1, Sub District, Sundarnagar, District: Mandi, State: Himachal Pradesh-175018. I have changed my name from **DIVYA SHARMA** to **SADHIKA SHARMA** for all future purposes, vide affidavit dated 3-10-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **P. ANURADHA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GOUTHAM YADAV S V,** S/o. Muniramaiah Kaniamma Suresh, residing at# 3/1, 4th Main Road, H.G.H Layout, Lakshmaiah Block, Ganganagar, R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru 560032, declare that all the names **GOUTHAM YADAV S V, GOWTHAM YADAV SV** and **GOWATHAMYADAV SURESH VEENA** refers /pertains to one and the same person i.e., myself only vide Affidavit Dated: 01/10/2024, sworn before Notary **SIVAKUMARA M N,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **JAYA,** Mother of No.7782329F, Ex-Sep KIRAN KUMAR S, presently residing at #330, 2nd Floor, Krishnamurthy Building, Pothalappa Garden, Adugodi, Bengaluru 560030, have changed my name from **JAYA** to **JAYA S,** vide Affidavit Dated: 05/10/2024, sworn before Notary **S.Samuel Solomon,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, YASHODHA, W/o Subramanya, aged about 50 Years, R/at #90, Sheshadri Nivas, D Ramaiah Road, Geddalahalli, Bangalore Karnataka 560077, I declare that below mentioned names **YASHODHA** and **YASHODA** belong and refers to one and the same person i.e., myself only., vide affidavit dated 1/10/2024 sworn before K.C.Chowde Gowda advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUBHADRA A DALAWAI,** W/o. Ashok Dalawai, residing at No.28, "Sai Sadan", 5th Main Road, Tata Nagar, Kodigehalli, Bengaluru-560092, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ADEMMA WARAD** to **SUBHADRA A DALAWAI,** vide affidavit 17.09.2024, sworn to before K.V. Nanjaiah, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NISHCHITH M** residing @ #2, 10th Cross, D Street, Magadi Road, Bangalore -560023 Karnataka has changed my name to NISHCHITH YAASHWIN NIJAY vide affidavit dated on 05/10/2024 sworn before Notary C. K. Anupama Bangalore.

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Sudeep and Narthan in talks for a collaboration

The Mufti director, currently preparing for the release of Bhairathi Ranagal, confirmed that discussions are still in the early stages

Sudeep

Narthan

A SHARADHAA

FANS of Sudeep have been eagerly waiting for the release of *Max*, which seems to be taking longer than expected. On the other hand, the multi-faceted actor is busy hosting the Bigg Boss reality show while gearing up for his next big project, *Billa Ranga Baashaa*, directed by Anup Bhandari. Currently, he is undergoing test shoots for this film. In addition to this, a film was announced with director Cheran, produced by Sathya Jyothi Films, but there have been no further updates on that project.

Adding to the excitement, speculations suggest that *Mufti* director Narthan is in discussions with Sudeep for a potential collaboration. Narthan himself confirms to TNIE, "Right now, I am focused on preparing for the release of Shivarajkumar's *Bhairathi Ranagal*, which is set to hit theatres on November 15. Yes, we have talked about the project, but we're still in the early stages. We need to create solid content that truly highlights the star and find the right producer for it."

Several producers are currently in talks with Sudeep for future collaborations, but it remains to be seen which project will ultimately bring this acclaimed actor and director together.

This action-packed rural family entertainer, directed by Shankar Guru, will mark the first collaboration between in the two actors

Reeshma Nanaiah joins Dhananjay's *Anna From Mexico*

Dhananjay

Reeshma Nanaiah

CE FEATURES

DHANANJAY, who enjoys balancing multiple projects, is currently filming *Anna From Mexico* under the direction of Shankar Guru. This upcoming project features a talented cast, including veteran actor Umashree in a pivotal role, along with Nagabhushan, Poorchandra Mysuru, and Rangayana Raghu, and joined by a fresh ensemble of newcomers.

Meanwhile Cinema Express has learnt that Reeshma Nanaiah has officially joined the cast, taking on the female lead opposite Dhananjay. Reeshma, who began her career in Prem's *EK Love Ya* and has since appeared in films like Baanadaariyalli, is also set to star alongside Upendra in the upcoming *UI* and Dhruva Sarja's *KD*. This fresh pairing with Dhananjay is sure to grab attention, while the actor has already shot a few portions, an official announcement about her role is expected any time soon.

Anna From Mexico marks the second collaboration between Dhananjay and director Shankar Guru, who previously struck gold with *Badava Rascal*. Early glimpses of the film show Dhananjay adorned with gold chains and a locket featuring the Karnataka flag, suggesting that the film will bring in a local flavour. Recent on-set photos showcase him in traditional attire, sporting a white shirt and dhoti, which adds an authentic rural charm to his character in this family-friendly, action-packed entertainer.

Produced by Satya Rayala's Rayala Studios in collaboration with Aaira Films, the film's musical score is by Vasuki Vaibhav, while SK Rao is handling cinematography.

Apart from *Anna From Mexico*, Dhananjay is also gearing up for the release of *Zebra*, set to debut on October 31. He will also be seen in Allu Arjun's highly anticipated *Pushpa 2* – The Rule, *Uttarakaanda* and *Jingo*.

Third Princess Diaries film in development

CE FEATURES

DISNEY has announced that Adele Lim, the screenwriter of films like Crazy Rich Asians and Raya and the Last Dragon, has officially agreed to direct the long-awaited third instalment in the beloved Princess Diaries franchise. Deadline first reported the news.

Lim expressed her excitement about joining the project in a statement, saying, "As a diehard fan of the original Princess Diaries, I'm beyond excited to be a part of bringing the third iteration of this beloved franchise to life. We look forward to celebrating its core tenants of female power, joy and mentorship with audiences worldwide."

Lim will direct the film from a Flora Greeson screenplay. The producer attached to the project is Debra Martin Chase, the original architect of the franchise starring Julie Andrews as the regal grandmother of Anne Hathaway's Genovia Queen Mia Thermopolis.

Development on the film has been underway since 2022; last year, Hathaway herself teased the project's progress in an interview with V Magazine. "There is nothing to announce yet. But We're in a good place," she said.

The makers are yet to confirm plot details, but the film will expectantly resume the story from the 2001 original and its 2004 sequel, Royal Engagement.

Sathish Ninasam to present *Vritta*

Sathish Ninasam

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Sathish Ninasam is set to present the upcoming suspense thriller, Vritta, under his Sathish Picture House banner. The film, directed by Likith Kumar S, features a unique storytelling approach that sets it apart from traditional formats.

The makers recently released the teaser, which has garnered significant attention for its synchronised sound design and intriguing narrative. The screenplay is penned by Yogeesh Gowda, with editing by Suresh Armugam, dialogues by Shankar Raman, cinematography by Gautham Krishna, and music by Antony and Hari Krishan S.

Maahir Mohiddin, a talented actor with a theatre background, stars in the lead role. His performance in the teaser has been praised for its intensity and depth. The cast also includes Chaitra J Achar and Harini Sundararajan.

Director Likith expressed his gratitude for Sathish Ninasam's support, signalling the team's readiness for the film's release. During the event, Sathish noted, "I'm supporting this project not just because it features newcomers, but because it is genuinely good." The team is preparing to launch the film's trailer soon, with plans for a release by the end of the year.

Just Married will confront the realities of marriage: Bobby CR

The debut director is also producing Just Married alongside composer Ajaneesh Loknath. The film's teaser was launched by Upendra, Ajay Bhupathi, and Nithilan Swaminathan

CE FEATURES

THE upcoming Kannada film, *Just Married*, produced by ABBS Studios and directed by CR Bobby, has garnered significant attention with its unique teaser launch. The film, a debut venture for composer Ajaneesh Loknath and director Bobby, features a remarkable ensemble cast including Shine Shetty, Ankita Amar, Sruthi Hariharan, and more.

The teaser, unveiled by renowned directors Upendra, Ajay Bhupathi, and Nithilan Saminathan, offers a glimpse into the film's exploration of the complexities of marriage. The title itself hints at the central theme of the film, delving into the emotional dramas and thrilling moments that often accompany married life.

Director Bobby CR shared insights into the film's narrative, stating, "Every individual, regardless of age or gender, faces the realities of marriage. *Just Married* explores the dark secrets and confrontations that often accompany relationships." She emphasized the universal nature of the film's themes, connecting with audiences of all ages.

The film's teaser suggests a narrative that intertwines the past, present, and future of a married couple, highlighting the importance of balance in their lives. The ensemble cast, known for their versatile performances, is expected to bring depth and authenticity to their roles, contributing to the film's exploration of love and life's challenges.

Bobby revealed that her passion for directing began at a young age. "When I was 14 years old, I wanted to become a director. Following my aspiration, I even wrote four scripts, and this one script was chosen by Ajaneesh, and I went with it. It captures the essence of life and relationships."

Ajaneesh Loknath and Bobby CR

A still from the film

Mutual Admiration: Upendra, Ajay Bhupathi, and Nithilan Swaminathan

Upendra, who is gearing up for his upcoming directorial release UI, expressed his enthusiasm for the film industry while highlighting the contributions of directors Ajay Bhupathi and Nithilan Swaminathan. He commended both directors for their creativity and vision. Both Ajay and Nithilan shared how Upendra has significantly influenced their careers. Bhupathi, in particular, articulated his admiration, acknowledging Upendra's impact on his journey as a filmmaker. In fact, Ajay playfully expressed his admiration for the multi-talented Upendra during the event, saying, "If Upendra sir were a girl, I would have asked him out on a date, and quickly clarified that the 'date' he mentioned would simply involve spending time discussing ideas with the esteemed director, highlighting his respect for Upendra's genius. In response to the praise, Upendra graciously acknowledged their kind words, attributing their compliments to their positive character. He commented, "Both of them inspire me. Ajay has made wonderful films like *RX 100* and *Mangalavaram*, while Nithilan created the remarkable film *Maharaja* with just a dustbin in mind. I am happy to stand next to such great talents."

Upendra, Ajay Bhupathi, and Nithilan waminathan